

Civilization

Mini-Lesson—cut this out and glue to the right hand page of your notebook.

We are finally here! We can discuss what qualities qualify a culture as a **civilization**. This is actually important, because based on the definition of a civilization, the United States Government denied recognition of the Cherokee Nation as a civilization because they were lacking one of the qualities of a civilization. There are five qualities a culture must have to be recognized as a civilization, and they are **cities** (more than one), **complex institutions**, **improved technology**, **communication**, **specialized workers**. The interesting thing here is that many aspects of a civilization can be categorized into one of these five qualities of a civilization. For instance some books claim that a social structure must be present, but that falls into the **complex institutions** category, along with **government** (a system by which people in numbers are managed), laws, **trade** (an exchange of goods) and religion. The development of language, an alphabet, and numbers all fall into the **communications** category, along with the job of being a **scribe** or record keeper. **Record keeping** involves writing information down and storing it in an organized fashion. The fact that being a **scribe** is a specialized job falls into the category of **specialized workers**, along with a potter, blacksmith, farmers of certain crops, furniture maker, basket weaver, jeweler, and knapper (rock shaper). **Improved technology** is pretty self-explanatory. When someone comes up with a better idea for how to do something, like how the “wheel” could be used to improve the lives of people. Think about all the ways something round and shaped like a wheel has been used. A mill stone that crushes grains to make flour. A grind-stone which is used to sharpen metal blades, a clock with all the little round gears and cogs that move the hands to show a specific time. The list goes on and on. The use of the wheel to design a cart to carry things, that made a harvest easier to bring into town. This brings on a question though, how is art categorized in the categories presented.

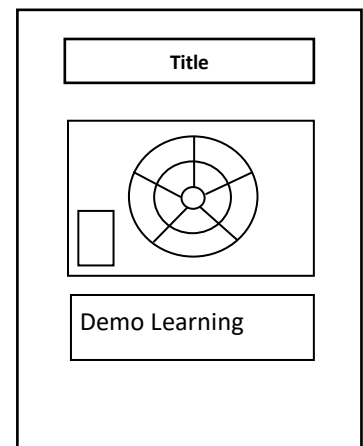
Directions to complete left hand notebook page.

Step 1 – Color the title box, the background of the box of circles, each slice of the circle graph should be a different color, and the Demonstrate your Learning box.

Step 2 – Cut out the title box, circle box, and Demonstrate your learning box. Glue or tape them as shown in graphic to the right to the left hand page of the notebook.

Step 3 – Use the mini-lesson to fill out the characteristics of a civilization and items that go in each category.

Step 4 – Complete the Demonstrate your learning question.



Demonstrate your learning.

Decide on a category that art fits into, and use what you know about art both performing and visual and the characteristics of a civilization to make an argument as to why art belongs in that category.