

WHAT CAUSED EXPANSION?

Directions: Students will brainstorm about the causes of the expansion of civilizations by completing an activity where they are the leaders of the civilization. This is a great way for students to begin to think about the pros and cons associated with the development of agrarian civilizations.

Students will imagine that they are part of the ruling class of an agrarian civilization. Their civilization is running low on resources and they must decide whether they should raise taxes on their citizens or conquer a neighboring civilization. Students will choose one of these options (tax or invade) and then answer the following questions:

1. What would it take to execute your plan? Come up with a general plan of action.
2. What are the benefits to your method of increasing revenue?
3. What are the costs (economic, political, cultural, geographical) and dangers of your plan?

After students answer the questions, have a group discussion about which option might be the best one and why.



WHAT CAUSED EXPANSION?

Name:

Date:

Directions: Imagine that you are part of the ruling class of an agrarian civilization. You have a problem: Your civilization is running low on resources! You have two options: raise taxes on your citizens or conquer a neighboring civilization. Choose one of these options (tax or invade) and then answer the following questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the class when you're finished.

1. What would it take to execute your plan? Come up with a general plan of action.

2. What are the benefits to your method of increasing revenue?

3. What are the costs (economic, political, cultural, geographical) and dangers of your plan?

