

Economies in Early States:

The Care and Feeding of Growing
Civilizations

Think about our own economy... what are the building blocks?

- Food production
- Labor
- Production of goods
- Delivery of
- services
- Financing
- Technology
- Information management

How would our economy work with NO CASH?

- How would you 'pay' people?
- Who would get 'paid'?
- Why would people 'work' for other people?
- How would you accumulate wealth?

How would our economy work with NO POWER SOURCES?

- Human labor as main motive force
- No water lifting technologies
- No motive forces (mills, engines, etc.)
- No fuel-driven motors
- Decentralized (household) production

How would our economy work with NO TRANSPORTATION BY ENGINE?

- Volume linked to value
- Water transport valued over all others
- Frequency replaces speed as measure of efficiency

How would our economy work with LESS THAN 2% LITERACY?

- Divisions of skilled and unskilled labor
- Control of specialized knowledge
- Oral basis for information flow (language issues)

Economies in Early States:

- Different modes of production
- Different organization of labor
- Different flows of food, goods, wealth and information
- Different technological systems
- Different values and measures (for wealth, efficiency, trade, etc.)