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A civilization or civilisation (see English spelling differences) is any complex society characterized by urban development, social stratification imposed by a cultural elite, symbolic systems of communication (for example, writing systems), and a perceived separation from and domination over the natural environment.. Civilizations are intimately associated with and often further defined by ...Illustrations: What is 'Knowledge'? The central importance of culture to material prosperity can be illustrated by the fact that economists have long regarded knowledge as the key factor in economic growth while various cultures have entirely incompatible epistemologies (ie assumptions about the nature of knowledge).. For example, the Western view of abstract knowledge about nature and society ...Big gods came after the rise of civilisations, not before, finds study using huge historical database. by Harvey Whitehouse, Patrick E. Savage, Peter Turchin And Pieter Francois, The ConversationAstrological beliefs in correspondences between celestial observations and terrestrial events have influenced various aspects of human history, including world-views, language and many elements of social culture.. Among Indo-European peoples, astrology has been dated to the 3rd millennium BC, [citation needed] with roots in calendrical systems used to predict seasonal shifts and to interpret ... - Civilisations & Social Theory Volume 1 Of So