

CHAPTER

1

Section 2

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: PLACE *Catal Huyuk*

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the illustration carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

Among the many ancient settlements of human beings in the world was the village of Catal Huyuk. Founded approximately 8,000 years ago in the hills of what is now Turkey, Catal Huyuk lasted for nearly 2,000 years before mysteriously disappearing.

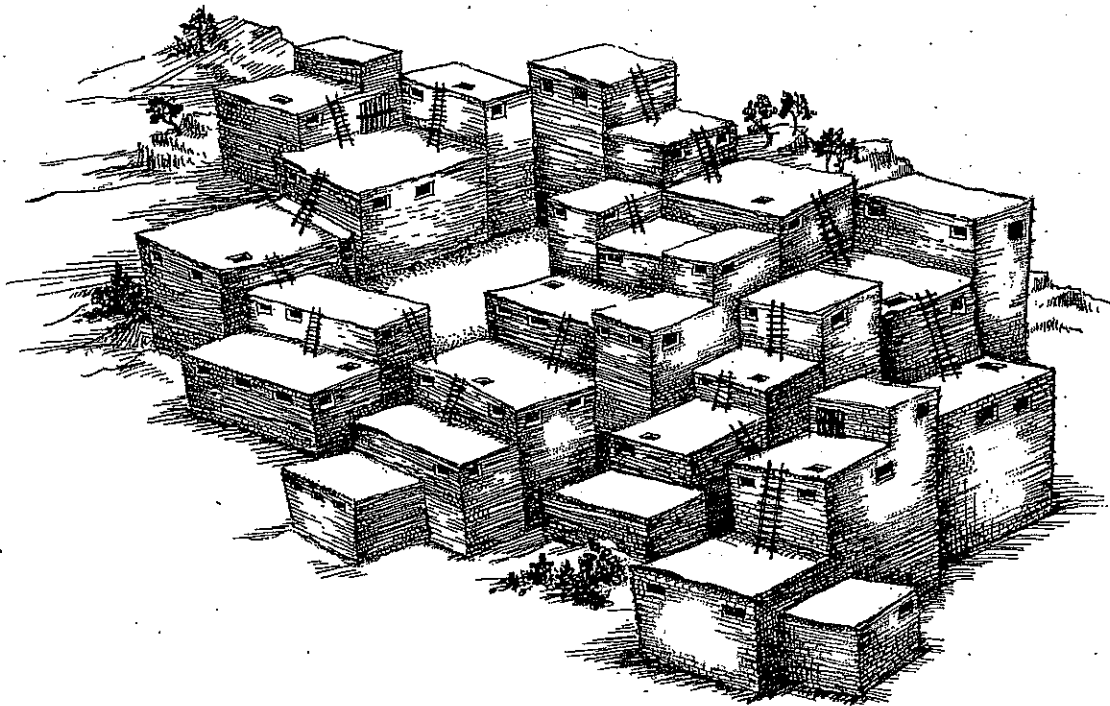
The settlement was the world's most advanced human center of the first agricultural age. However, Catal Huyuk did not develop near a major river system, as might have been expected of a farming village. Instead, it developed near a small stream in the shadow of three menacing volcanoes.

The people of Catal Huyuk fortified themselves against invaders and wild animals by building a village that contained no doors or streets. Instead, inhabitants used a hole in the roof to enter and exit and people simply moved around on top of each other's dwellings. Families constructed their houses with strong mud-dried brick. The roofs were made of woven reeds and mud and were connected on

one or more sides to the units next to them. Each family dwelling contained an open hearth, an oven in the wall, and clearly defined sleeping areas.

The residents of Catal Huyuk appeared to be a religious people. Elaborate shrines were constructed in the same fashion as the dwellings, and contained four or five rooms. Paintings filled the walls of these shrines and often included the chief deity, who was believed to be a goddess. This goddess was frequently depicted giving birth, nursing a child, or living as an old woman accompanied by a vulture.

The economic base of Catal Huyuk was also highly sophisticated for the time. Like their ancestors, these people still hunted, but they also bred goats, sheep, and cattle. In addition, they produced many different types of foods, including peas, several grains, berries, and berry wine. However, like other prehistoric humans, the people of Catal Huyuk did not live much past their twenties.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What does the illustration reveal about the way that the people of Catal Huyuk entered their dwellings and moved from house to house? _____

2. Where was Catal Huyuk located? _____

3. Describe the physical surroundings of Catal Huyuk. _____

4. Explain how the village of Catal Huyuk was constructed. _____

5. What role did religion play in the lives of the people of Catal Huyuk? _____

6. If Catal Huyuk had been built near a major river system, how might life have been different? _____

7. Look again at the illustration. Explain what you think the inhabitants of Catal Huyuk gained by constructing their settlement in this manner. _____

