Neolithic people first began settling in areas around the world as they developed the ability to farm, somewhere around 12,000 years ago.

These early people used stone tools to help grow plants, train animals, and build structures such as mud huts.

But where did they settle? And why did they choose those places?

In this assignment, your job is to answer those questions—by creating a fictional area that would be *perfect* for a Neolithic settlement.

**Your goal:** Create a map of a perfect area for a Neolithic settlement of foragers settling down after discovering farming

**Your role:** You will be acting as an archeologist, doing a thought experiment about early settlements.

**Audience:** Your audience will be your fellow archeologists (classmates) and the head of an organization offering research funding (me).

**The Situation:** The situation you are dealing with is the transition from foraging to agriculture

**Product:** You will create two pieces for this assessment. First, you will create a resource map of a fictional area that would be perfect for a Neolithic settlement. This map will require the following:

1. Any physical features and bodies of water that you deem important to a location for early settlements, clearly marked on the map
2. A key to show resources available on the map
3. A compass rose to show the cardinal directions
4. A title for the map
5. A scale to show distance on the map
6. Clear and legible labels for details on the map

Secondly, you will write a 1 paragraph explanation of the area you created. This paragraph must include the following items:

1. 5 or more well-organized sentences with limited grammatical errors.
2. 4 or more key vocabulary terms from the unit, used in context
3. 3 detailed explanations that describe why your area would be suitable for settlement
4. 1 real-world example to compare your map to.
5. 2 sources listed by author, title, publisher and year—use the yellow ‘Ancient World’ textbook and the Nystrom Atlas.

*Your listed resources will be used for your real-world example to compare to your map. Find one of the 4 River Valley civilizations in the Ancient World textbook (Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus River Valley, Yellow River Valley), then use that text and the Nystrom Atlas to look at ideas such as climate, vegetation, rainfall, and physical features in those areas to compare to your creation.*

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| **Criterion A--Unit 1** | |
| 0 | Assignment was not done, not turned in, or contains no relevant information |
| 1-2  (63-67) | i. Student explanation contains fewer than 3 key vocabulary terms used  somewhat accurately  ii. Student explanation describes 1 or fewer reasons why their map would be an adequate place for early humans to settle |
| 3-4  (73-77) | i. Student explanation contains 3-4 key vocabulary terms used mostly accurately.  ii. Student explanation describes 2 or more reasons why their map would be an adequate place for early humans settle |
| 5-6  (83-87) | i. Student explanation contains more than 4 key vocabulary terms used accurately.  ii. Student explanation describes 3 or more reasons why their map would be an adequate place for early humans to settle |
| 7-8  (93-100) | i. Student explanation contains more than 4 key vocabulary terms used accurately and relevantly.  ii. Student explanation describes 3 or more reasons why their map would be an adequate place for early humans to settle providing at least 1 real world example to compare to their map. |

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| **Criterion C--Unit 1** | |
| 0 | Assignment was not done, not turned in, or contains no relevant information |
| 1-2  (63-67) | i. Area map is unclear and missing key map features (scale, key, title, compass rose)  ii. Student explanation does not use complete sentences, with limited organization  iii. Student does not list sources used for information |
| 3-4  (73-77) | i. Area map is clearly labeled, but is missing more than 1 key map feature or has more than 1 inaccurate map feature  ii. Student explanation uses complete sentences in a somewhat organized manner.  iii. Student lists at least 1 source by title and author |
| 5-6  (83-87) | i. Area map is clearly labeled, with only 1 key map feature absent or inaccurate  ii. Student explanation is written as an organized paragraph  iii. Student lists at least 2 sources by title and author |
| 7-8  (93-100) | i. Area map is clearly and accurately labeled, including all key map features  ii. Student explanation is written as an organized paragraph using proper grammar and spelling (with 5 or fewer errors)  iii. Student lists at least 2 sources by title, author, publisher, and year. |