

MASTER BEDTIME TALE: DEEP SIX THE OPALS OR MUTINY
Interdisciplinary Themes / Nature and Civilization CORE CONCEPTS ALPL

Water, rock, and soil make up the earth's natural surface.

How water, rock, soil, and living organisms exist together at any one time defines a particular area (e.g., garden, forest, beach, mountain, ocean).

Water, rock, soil, and living organisms things act with one another in particular ways (e.g., water erodes rock, rock forms places for water to be, soil is composed of living and decaying things, minerals, water).

Earth's surface is built up and torn down by natural processes. These processes include sustained to sudden, slow to rapid, mild to catastrophic changes over the immediate, short, long and epochal time frames.

Natural processes that change the earth's surface more or less slowly include erosion and weathering, wind, tides. [Erosion is / Weathering is]

Natural processes that change the earth's surface rapidly include such things as tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.

Earth's natural materials are used and adapted by living beings in order that they may survive and thrive (e.g., making nests, dams, burrows).

Human beings appear to be the most likely to, capable of, and ambitious in changing natural materials and creating new materials from these in order that they may survive and thrive.

In addition to wholly non-organic processes, earth's surface is built up and torn down by living things and the systems they create (e.g., mining, making dams, farming, building, foresting, creating systems of transportation, water use, communication).

Humans, and some other living things, make things that are aesthetically pleasing to themselves in order to satisfy themselves, celebrate their existence, communicate, create value, and attract others.

Humans build spaces to live and come together by developing skills to act on the natural world in more and less skilled ways that tend to grow in excellence over time and human curiosity and endeavor.

Reasons humans use and adapt natural materials include ways to survive (e.g. eat, drink shelter themselves, and get from one place to another, come together to insure safety and build connections with one another and the physical and ineffable world).

Reasons humans use and adapt natural materials include ways to thrive (have abundant and surplus supplies, refine activities of daily living such as residences with extra spaces, heat, plumbing, shrines, have leisure time) and public buildings and spaces (such as places of worship, performance, sport, celebration).

Over the millennia, there is a general pattern that civilizations rise, decline, and fall.

Civilizations that rise and thrive tend to have accessible and/or abundant natural resources, skilled governors, planners, architects, artisans to create thriving villages, towns and cities, ways of taking maximum advantage of and sustaining these without exploiting and depleting them).

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Thriving civilizations' citizens tend to have more shared undedicated-to-commerce spaces, leisure time, shared activities, interests, loyalties. etc. Planning and preserving open spaces within built areas is one way in which human beings "recreate" their relationship with nature.

Thriving civilizations tend to preserve, learn, and create knowledge across abiding areas of intellectual endeavor, such as to nurture all basic understandings and giftedness in number, language, history, science, arts, medicine.

Thriving civilizations have means of developing, testing and competing and testing individual and organizational knowledge, talents, strengths, limitations. In this service, they tend to aim to maximize human potential, and to provide opportunities to prevent, close and far surpass any gaps in income and achievement.

Civilizations that decline tend to begin to have less and to loose access to natural resources and the sustaining ways to husband them, along with gaps and patchworks fixes in governance, social safety, etc, and to the learning and knowledge needed required for social and civic life.

Civilizations that fall are deprived and deprive themselves of access to and use of natural resources and the human and technological know-how and systems that sustain and enrich life.