

**Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed- Guided Viewing Worksheet**  
by Jared Diamond

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**a·grar·i·an**

ə'gre(ə)rēən/adjective

1. of or relating to cultivated land or the cultivation of land.

synonyms: agricultural, rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside, farming

1: How is our civilization now **more adapted** to avoid collapsing than civilizations in the past?

**WATER**

**The Anasazi- Chaco Canyon:**

*What did it look like?*

*How did they control their water system?*

*What caused the collapse of Chaco Canyon?*

*What did the Anasazi do that was allowed them to survive?*

*What is the projection of what could happen to Phoenix, Arizona? Why?*

*What is happening to the Los Angeles River?*

*What is happening in the Central Valley of California? Why?*

*Why are some farmers selling off their water allocations? What does this mean for our agriculture?*

*What would cause the land to sink and fracture? Explain.*

*What happened in Bolivia in the year 2000?*

*What does Diamond think is the “silver lining” with our water issues?*

## **CIVILIZATION**

*A single tank of gas is worth \_\_\_\_\_ of man power*

*How efficient are oil/coal fired power plants?*

*What fueled the expanse of the Roman Empire?*

*What was the problem with the expansion of the Roman Empire?*

*What are oil sands? Where are they located? How is the oil extracted (what is needed)?*

*How long before our oil reserves run out? What can we do?*

*Explain how a solar array works.*

*What are some of the challenges of alternative energy?*

*Which alternative energy source can take the place of fossil fuels? Why is this such a problem?*

## **RESOURCES**

*What does the lack of plaster on later walls indicate happened to the Mayan Population?*

*What are some impacts of deforestation? How does this affect the Mayans?*

*What is going on in Northwest China? Explain the causes.*

*How much of our usable farmland are we currently using?*

*What is modern agriculture doing to our lands?*

*What does Jared Diamond say we should do to reduce our agricultural impact in the grocery store?*

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

*What are the projections for sea level rise in the next century?*

*Why are humans so hesitant about doing anything about climate change?*

*What does excess Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere do to our oceans?*

*What has been locked under the Permafrost?*

*How many more times stronger is Methane than Carbon Dioxide gas?*

*What is the current cost of climate change?*

*What is the idea of “Boom and Bust”?*

*What happened to the Roman Empire?*

*How does our current situation mirror the Roman Empire?*

***Summarize what Jared Diamond says will be the downfall of our civilization if we do not act or change things. What are your thoughts?***



