What’s the **BIG** deal?

**Global Patterns of Early Human Settlement**

* Analyzing archaeological evidence allows us to learn about local as well as global patterns of technology development, agriculture, culture, and social institutions.
* Despite many differences, there were important similarities across early human settlements even though they were not in contact with each other. These similarities suggest independent development of similar forms of agriculture, specialization, and social structures.
* Global patterns of early human development were characterized by settled villages with greater numbers of people near important natural resources, growing dependence on agriculture and animal domestication, the development of social institutions and culture (e.g. burials, art, and architecture, etc.), and specialization of labor.
* This global pattern suggests that a clear turning point in human history occurred about 10,000 years ago. This change was gradual but truly global, taking place in many different parts of the world independently.