“Worst Mistake in Human History”

Most history teachers teach that the Agricultural Revolution was a giant step forward for mankind and was the start of civilization. Professor Jared Diamond makes a different argument. The study of history is open to many interpretations and as AP world history students it will be your job to analyze and construct intellectual arguments for or against historical views presented in readings we will be looking at this year.

Assignment:

Read the article by Jared Diamond about the Neolithic Revolution, and answer the following questions on separate paper. The answers must be either typed in 12 point Times New Roman font or handwritten neatly using complete sentences and specific details from derived from the journal. Papers written using incomplete sentences will not be accepted.

1. Begin by defining the following vocabulary used in the essay:
   a. irrefutable
   b. Luddite
   c. Progressive
   d. Kalahari Desert
   e. bushmen
   f. Hadza nomads
   g. emulate
   h. Mycenae
   i. Inuit
   j. Paleo-pathology

2. What is the author’s thesis? (IMPORTANT)

3. What evidence does he use to support that thesis? (IMPORTANT)

4. What is the author’s conclusion? (IMPORTANT)

5. Name the philosopher who said “life is solitary, nasty, brutish, and short,” and in a few sentences explain the importance of his philosophy in world history and especially as it relates to this article.

6. Write a 3 + paragraph (paragraph = 5 sentences each) essay explaining why you agree or disagree with the author. Your essay must have an introduction, body, and conclusion and follow proper essay format. Do not write a book report. This is your thesis, and ultimately it is your opinion that you must support with evidence. (IMPORTANT)