Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Response to The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race (Jared Diamond)**

*The first column shows the progressivists’ views of an agricultural life-style. Across from each one (in the other column), write Diamond’s thoughts on the validity of each view and the evidence he gives to support his ideas.*

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| --- | --- |
| **Progressivist View** | **Diamond’s Thoughts and Evidence** |
| We're better off now than the people of the Middle Ages, who were better off than cavemen, who were better off than apes.  |  |
| We have abundant and varied foods, tools, material goods, some of the longest and healthiest lives in history.  |  |
| Most of us are safe from starvation and predators. |  |
| We tap the energy of oil and machines, not sweat. |  |
| Hunters and gathers have a nasty, brutish life, and because no food is stored, there is no respite from the struggle to survive.  |  |
| Our escape from this was facilitated 10,000 years ago in the agricultural revolution.  |  |
| Hunger-gatherers adopted agriculture because it is an efficient way to get more food for less work.  |  |
| Agriculture gave us free time to build the glories of civilization, from the Parthenon to  Bach's B-minor Mass. |  |

1. Based **only on Diamond’s ideas** (review the chart you just made), would you support a return to a hunting and gathering lifestyle?
2. If we were to return to a hunting and gathering lifestyle right now, describe the worldwide changes we may see. (Consider population numbers and geographic distribution.)
3. Choose two of Diamond’s ideas and explain how you would respond to his thoughts if you were a progressivist in favor of an agricultural society.