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| Name: |  |
| Date: |  |

## Purpose

## In this lesson, you’ll learn about the collapse of some societies. This quick opening activity will give you a framework to help you think about the different factors that cause societies to collapse. Societies today still face the kinds of challenges that can cause collapse, so this framework will also help you think about present-day situations.

## Process

In this quick activity, you will be presented with a few fictional scenarios of societal collapse, and you’ll decide if these societies fell due to internal factors, external factors, or environmental factors. You’re about to learn a lot about collapse, and sometimes the different reasons for this can get confusing. To help, you’ll have a framework to use to analyze each collapse.

Your teacher will review the following theories of collapse with you:

1. **Internal weakness:** Did the society undergo some kind of internal instability, such as a series of bad rulers or too much expansion that led to the society being unable to maintain itself?
2. **External factors:** Did another population—an invader—take over this society?
3. **Environmental disaster:** Did an environmental disaster (natural or human created) take down the society?

Another way to think about this is to decide if a society was pushed (external factors), or if they jumped (internal factors). And environmental disaster could be either internal or external. Your teacher posted some fictional scenarios around the room, and it’s up to you to decide if you think the society fell due to internal weakness, external factors, or environmental disasters. Your teacher will assign a color of sticky note to internal weakness, external factors, and environmental disaster, and depending on the cause of collapse, you will place the relevant color on each poster. You can only choose one type of cause for each scenario. Also, be prepared to discuss your reasoning with the class