

World History
Topic 1
Origins of Civilization
Prehistory-4,000 BCE

I. The Distant Past

A. Studying Early Humans

1. **anthropology** – the study of how human beings behave, how they act together, where they came from, and what makes one group different from another
2. **archaeologists** – study human life in the past by examining the things people left behind
3. study **prehistory** – time before written records
4. study **fossils** – hardened remains or imprints of living things that existed long ago (plants, feathers, bones, and footprints)
5. **geologists** – study physical materials of Earth such as soil and rocks
6. study **artifacts** – anything made by humans (tools, pottery, and weapons), to learn about ways of life

B. Where Did Human Ancestors Live?

1. oldest found in Africa
2. **evidence** – proof, found that these “handy men” used tools
3. 1.75 million years old
4. Lucy – 3.5 feet tall and 3.2 million years old
5. Ardi – taller and heavier and 4.2 million years old
6. theorized that humans evolved from apes 5 to 7 million years ago
7. **conclude** – decide, that humankind began in East Africa 4.5 million years ago
8. then found a skull in central Africa that is 7 million years old

C. How Did Hunter-Gatherers Live?

1. **hunter-gatherers** – lived by hunting small animals and gathering plants
2. developed societies and technology to survive
3. Paleolithic Era – Old Stone Age when they used stone tools
4. fire – to see at night, cook food, protect themselves, and stay warm
5. **culture** – way of life of a group of people (family structure, beliefs, language, religion, food, homes, clothes, pastimes, rituals, art, etc.)
6. lived in small bands (10-12 adults with children) and were nomads to find food

II. Humans Spread Out

A. What Were Later Stone Age Peoples Like?

1. Neanderthals found in Germany and Denisovans found in Asia
2. first to bury their dead
3. made tools, used fire, and hunted animals
4. homo sapiens were similar but were taller, lighter, and less muscular
5. developed a **complex** language – having many related parts, not simple
6. helped them survive

B. What Do We Know About Early Human Migration?

1. have walked the Earth for 200,000 years
2. started in Africa; the “out of Africa” theory
3. **migration** – movement from homeland to another region
4. African communities have the most genetic variations in the world
5. then migrated to Europe, Asia, Australia, and the Americas

C. How Did Humans Adapt to Varied Environments?

1. settled in different **environments** – surroundings
2. had to **adapt** – change way of life, to suit their new environment (new food and shelter)
3. also adapted to survive the Ice Age
 - a. water was locked up in glaciers
 - b. land was exposed and migrating animals crossed new land bridges and the humans followed
 - c. built warmer shelters out of mammoth bones and hide
 - d. formed communities of 25-50 to survive, creating a **network** – a closely interconnected group of people or things
 - e. began to trade and exchange knowledge

III. Developing Complex Cultures

A. When Did People Start to Create Art?

1. large-brained “wise people” were always on the move
2. **populate** – become inhabitants of, the whole world
3. early art – Lascaux cave paints in France, 16,000 years old
4. statues representing animals and pregnant women
5. art showed **potential** – possibility to grow and change in the future

B. What Do We Know About Stone Age Religion?

1. early practices involved death and burial
2. two Ice Age children buried in Russia covered in beads
3. believed in **animism** – a belief that the world was filled with spirits

C. When Did People Start to Farm?

1. began farming around 10,000 years ago when it warmed up
2. Neolithic Era – New Stone Age when they began to farm
3. some animals couldn't adapt and died out
4. people found different animals to hunt and began to fish
5. cleared trees and planted wild seeds
6. began to **domesticate** – control growth of plants and animals for human use
7. agricultural **revolution** – complete change in thinking, working, or living
 - a. wolves became dogs
 - b. crops (wheat, rice, and corn) became **reliable** – dependable, steady, not risky
 - c. animals provided meat, eggs, milk, honey, work, and fibers for cloth
 - d. became pastoral **nomads** – people who move from place to place with their herds
 - e. domesticated crops were more abundant, larger, and tasted better
 - f. domesticated animals were smaller and easier to manage
 - g. new tools for farmers – axe, sickle, grinding stones, and mills
 - h. began to use metals for tools (Stone Age to Bronze Age to Iron Age)

IV. New Ways of Life

A. Where Did Farming Begin and How Did It Spread?

1. hunter-gatherers had few possessions and life was short and dangerous
2. then began to stay in one place
3. began farming 10,000 years ago in Asia and spread to Africa and Europe
 - a. Asia – wheat, barley, rice, and millet
 - b. America – potatoes, beans, and squash
 - c. Africa – sorghum and yams
7. dangers of farming and herding
 - a. took time and energy and wasn't certain
 - b. attacked by nomads
8. **benefit** – gain, favorable result
 - a. produced more food and took up less land
 - b. built permanent homes and villages
 - c. provided new sources of material for clothing

B. How Did Farming Change Human Culture?

1. built different homes
2. Catalhoyuk
 - a. oldest farming settlement (8,000 years ago)
 - b. Turkey
 - c. had no streets, lots of artwork, and kitchens
 - d. grew grains and raised sheep and goats
3. clothes
 - a. hunter-gatherers wore hides and fur
 - b. farmers used cotton, flax, wool, and silk (much lighter)
4. **surplus** – more than needed, so villages grew
5. **specialization** – spend most of their time working at a single job or craft
 - a. toolmakers, potters, weavers, metalworkers
 - b. traded with others
6. **accumulate** – collect or attain a large amount of food and possessions
7. was the beginning of inequality

C. How Did the First Cities Begin?

1. farming villages in the Middle East
2. Uruk
 - a. 6,000-7,000 years ago
 - b. much larger than others
 - c. houses, gardens, and temples
 - d. temple priests ruled and later kings (instead of a village council)
 - e. **economy** – system that a community uses to produce and distribute goods and services
 - f. wealthy and attracted many people
 - g. surrounded by a wall

V. The Rise of Civilizations

A. How Did Cities Lead to Civilizations?

1. settlements to villages to cities to early civilizations
2. **civilization** – complex society that has cities, government, and specialized workers
3. **resource** – supply of something that can be used as needed
 - a. fertile soil, fresh water, and seeds
 - b. labor, tools, and planning
4. early civilizations (many in fertile river valleys)
 - a. Sumer in Asia
 - b. the Nile River in Africa
 - c. the Tigris River and Euphrates River in Mesopotamia
 - d. the Indus River in South Asia
 - e. the Huang River in China
 - f. the Greeks in Europe and the Mediterranean Sea
5. built irrigation systems, cut down trees, and cleared land to build

B. What Are the Features of Civilization?

1. cities – centers of religion, government, and culture
2. government
 - a. **manage** – to direct, have control over
 - b. control resources
 - c. form and train an army
 - d. became kings and queens
3. **religion** – shared spiritual beliefs
 - a. often linked to government
 - b. believed in gods and goddesses
 - c. offered sacrifices and led prayers
 - d. beliefs about life after death
 - e. rules about how to treat one another and live morally
4. job **specialization** – act of concentrating on a limited number of goods or activities
5. **social classes** – groups of people that occupy different ranks or levels in society
 - a. priests and rulers at the top
 - b. farmers, merchants, and skilled workers
 - c. slaves – prisoners of war or debtors
6. public workers – roads, water systems, walls, and granaries
7. arts and architecture
 - a. temples, tombs, and palaces
 - b. statues and paintings
 - c. jewelry and perfume boxes
 - d. music and literature
8. system of writing – leads us from prehistory to recorded history