

Chapter I: The World: Pre-history to 2300 BC (page 2)

INTRODUCTION:

How does archaeology and anthropology teach us about pre-history?

Vocabulary Words, People, Places and Key Points:

LESSON 1.1: Early Humans p. 4

* *What is meant by "Pre-History?"* the time before writing was developed

What is used by archaeologists to understand what happened during this time period?

artifacts and the archaeological and (recently) biological records

artifacts are objects that are made or altered and used by humans

examples: tools, weapons, art, buildings

* archaeology the study of past societies through analysis of what people left behind

* anthropology the study of human life and culture: clothes, society, values, food, beliefs

* homo sapiens sapiens "wise, wise human" appeared in Africa 1000's of years ago. They began to spread out and populate the earth approx. 140-250,000 years ago

Paleolithic Age 2,500,000 BC-10,000 BC means "Old Stone" Age

hunters-gatherers: early humans who relied on hunting animals and gathering berries, nuts and wild grains for survival. They formed tools out of stone

nomads people without a permanent home - they move from place to place following animals and other sources of food (hunters/gatherers)

Why were people nomadic during this period? they had to follow animal migration and vegetation cycles...they constantly moved in search of food (in small bands of 20-30)

What was their main concern? day by day survival and finding enough food

* *How were jobs divided between men and women?* co-operation was a must and everyone had a job: Men - mostly hunting Women - gathering foods/trapping animals/maintained camps/cared for children (also learned to work very early) Everyone contributed.

What important knowledge was critical during the Ice Age and in colder regions? use of fire

How did archaeologists learn about these pre-historic people without writing? cave paintings, not just what they actually drew, but also by the technology they used: dyes, reeds, colors, locations

LESSON 1.2: *The Neolithic Revolution* p.11

Neolithic "New Stone" Age - a big change from the Paleolithic (Old) Stone Age

Neolithic Revolution - Revolution(change) This is thought by historians as one of the two greatest changes in all of human history - people went from hunting/gathering food to producing food through farming/agriculture (2nd Change: Industrialization)

This was a very SLOW process - hundreds, if not thousands of years!!!

- * systematic agriculture people learned to harvest and grow food on a regular basis - they used metal tools that eventually led to the *Bronze Age c. 4000 BC
- * domestication taming, herding, breeding and raising animals (adapting for human benefit)
- * *Why do historians think this was so significant?* People did not have to be nomadic anymore. They could settle in one place and live collectively. This eventually occurred in many different areas of the world. Many changes began to take place and because of advances in knowledge and technology, they began to control their environment

What was necessary before people could settle down in one place and stop a nomadic lifestyle?
a constant and dependable source of food through farming/domestication

artisans skilled workers who learned trades other than farming (they had time to devote to this now)
Examples: toolmakers, metal workers, potters, builders, cloth makers

culture the way of life of a certain people in a certain place (foods, clothing, beliefs, technology arts, traditions and much more)

- * civilization a complex culture in which large numbers of humans share a number of common elements. See characteristics of civilization below

Characteristics of Civilization : once the food supply was dependable, people had time to pursue other tasks and technology advanced. Soon, one advancement led to another and there were some common elements of the many civilizations that developed around the world

- 1 *Cities* - small villages grew into larger and larger cities
- 2 *Government* - as many people lived together, they needed organization and order, so leaders rose up to control. Many were priests or religious leaders as well. Leaders oversaw public works projects such as city walls, irrigation systems, dams, bridges etc.
- 3 *Religion* - people from the earliest times believed in gods associated with nature and these developed into formal religions with leaders, ceremonies, traditions
- 4 *Social Structure* - leaders arose and were able to dominate others. Eventually these divided into upper and lower classes. Slaves were common also
- 5 *Writing* - people first needed to keep trade and religious records. This developed later into written languages
- 6 *Art* - (and architecture) people found ways to express their creativity, honor their gods and record their history

How did economies develop in the River Valley Civilizations? trade surplus (define) and barter (the trading of goods without the use of money) Money came along later...

LESSON 1.3: Mesopotamia p.16

* River Valleys were places where many people settled because of fertile soil, protection, moderate climates, presence of animals, ease of transportation. One of the first places this happened was in the Tigris-Euphrates river valley. Find it on the map, p. 17 What present day country is this? **Iraq**

Fertile Crescent - **the land between the rivers was fertile for farming and many people desired to settle there. It was also close to the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf**

* *Why was it so important to control the rivers in this area?* **flooding was very unpredictable and destructive. They used irrigation and drainage ditches to help (aided farming also)**

Mesopotamia **"The Land Between the Rivers" (Greek word) Included: Assyria, Akkad, Sumer**
This was not a unified country like we have today, instead they formed smaller units

* city-states **Each city had its own government and were separate from the other cities. The cities had walls and included the areas around the city also. * Main building material: Mud was the most common because of lack of stone or wood in the area**

polytheistic **people looked to religion to answer nature's & life's questions therefore they believed in many gods, not just one. Humans were believed to be lesser than the gods.**

ziggurat **massive pyramid-like temples often built on towers - used to worship gods**

* *How do the features and location of the ziggurats indicate their role of value?* **most prominent building on high ground - center of the city - people devoted much time and wealth to build them and to support the priests/gods**

* theocracy **a government established by divine authority and ruled by religious leaders**

cuneiform **the form of writing in this area - they used a wedge-shaped instrument to make marks in certain shapes on a wet clay tablet. It dried to form a permanent record. Possibly the greatest contribution, but there were others (see below)**

Why were the scribes considered so important? **Not everyone could write > Scribes became leaders and held important positions as teachers and jurists**

* Other Sumerian contributions: **wheel, sundial, bronze, astronomy (charted heavenly constellations)**
Because of their central location, many of these ideas spread to other areas

The Epic of Gilgamesh -

of the earliest examples of literature - it came from this area during this time