Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 1, Section 1

Did You Know? Early hominids called australopithecines were primarily herbivores, but the development of stone tools, which allowed them to remove flesh from animal carcasses, meant that later hominids, such as *Homo habilis*, could eat meat regularly.

I. Before History *(pages 19–21)*

A. The period before history—**prehistory**—is the period for which we have no written records. We know about prehistory from archaeological and biological information.

B. Archaeologists and anthropologists create theories based on this information. **Archaeology** studies the structure of past societies by analyzing the **artifacts**—tools, household items, weapons, buildings, artworks, religious figures, etc.—people left behind. **Anthropology** focuses more on culture by studying artifacts and human remains—human **fossils.**

C. For example, by studying tools and weapons scientists create theories about the economic and military structures of a society. Examining bones and hides tells us about the diet of people.

D. Archaeologists and anthropologists use scientific methods to create their theories. One of the most important scientific tasks is dating prehistorical artifacts and fossils.

E. One valuable dating method is radiocarbon dating. This method dates accurately up to 50,000 years old. Thermoluminescence measures accurately up to 200,000 years old.

F. Biological methods such as DNA and blood molecule analyses also give us information about the societies of prehistory.

Discussion Question

What artifacts from contemporary culture would best show contemporary ways of life, beliefs, and values to archaeologists and anthropologists ten thousand years from now? Explain what these artifacts would teach future peoples about us. *(Answers will vary. Answers should show an understanding of what an artifact can reveal about a culture.)*

II. Early Stages of Development *(pages 21–22)*

A. The earliest humanlike beings, called **australopithecines** ("southern apes") by their discoverer, **Donald Johanson,** lived in Africa three to four million years ago.

B. Australopithecines were the first **hominids** (creatures that walk upright) to make stone tools.

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C. *Homo erectus* marks the next stage of human development. This species dates from about 1.5 million years ago. These hominids used larger and more varied tools, and were the first to move into parts of Europe and Asia. They could migrate into colder areas because they were the first brings to make fires deliberately.

D. *Homo sapiens* ("wise human being") emerged about 250,000 years ago. Two subgroups developed from *Homo sapiens*: **Neanderthals** and *Homo sapiens sapiens*. The Neanderthals died out.

E. ***Homo sapiens sapiens*** was the first group that looked like us. They appeared in Africa between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago. All humans today belong to this subspecies of *Homo sapiens*.

Discussion Question

The discovery of Neanderthals is considered evidence for the theory of evolution, the view that all living things are the product of millions of years of inherited change, because it shows that other types of hominids had once existed and become extinct. How might this point be considered evidence for the theory of evolution? *(People consider this evidence for evolution because it shows that species change over time and that change has to do with adaptation. The Neanderthals died out because they could not adapt.)*

III. The Hunter-Gatherers of the Old Stone Age *(pages 22–25)*

A. A basic distinguishing feature of human beings is making and using tools. Early tools were made of stone. Therefore, the term ***Paleolithic Age*** ("Old Stone Age") designates the earliest period of human history. The Paleolithic Age is from 2,500,000 to 10,000 B.C.

B. Paleolithic people hunted game and gathered nuts, berries, fruits, and wild grains. Over the centuries they developed better hunting tools like spears, bows and arrows, harpoons, and fishhooks.

C. They were **nomads** (people who move from place to place) because they had to follow the vegetation cycles and animal migrations. Scientists speculate these nomads lived in bands of twenty to thirty people.

D. Most of Paleolithic life was organized around and devoted to finding food.

E. Probably both men and women found food, with men hunting and women gathering. Women probably stayed close to camp because of bearing and raising children.

F. Paleolithic men and women may have been roughly equal because they shared the vital responsibility of finding food. Probably both made decisions that affected the group.

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G. The word *technology* refers to what we make to sustain ourselves and control our environment. Stone tools were made by using a harder stone like flint to create an edge on another stone. The most common early stone tool was the hand axe. Later Paleolithic people added a handle to the stone axe. These tools were used to kill and butcher animals, cut plants, dig up roots, and cut branches to build shelter.

H. Early shelter was in caves. Later Paleolithic people fashioned houses and huts, often using wood as a frame that was then covered with hides. Sometimes they used animal bones for the frame.

I. Paleolithic people used fire systematically as long ago as five hundred thousand years. Fire gave warmth, it fostered a sense of community, it scared away wild animals, flushed out animals for hunting, and cooked food. Fire was especially important as a source of warmth during the Ice Ages, the most recent of which lasted from about 100,000 to 8000 B.C.

J. That even Paleolithic people created art shows that art is important to human life. One of the largest discoveries of Paleolithic art, done between 25,000 and 12,000 B.C., is at **Lascaux,** France.

K. The paintings are in underground caves. Most of the images are of animals. Probably these paintings were used in magical or religious rituals to bring about a successful hunt.

Discussion Question

The Paleolithic cave paintings probably were part of a magical or religious ritual to ensure a successful hunt. Few people in contemporary times believe art has this kind of power, yet art continues to be a vital human activity. What are other functions of art? *(Answers will vary. Possible answers are that we learn from art and that we get pleasure from experiencing the beautiful.)*

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Daily Lecture and Discussion Notes

Chapter 1, Section 2

Did You Know? Early civilizations' food surpluses were made possible by a variety of agricultural innovations. Among these was the crossbreeding of crops. In the Indus Valley, for example, crossing local goatsface grass with Western Asiatic enmer wheat produced bread-wheat.

I. The Neolithic Revolution *(pages 27–30)*

A. Human survival depends on the systematic growing and storing of food, an accomplishment of the people of the Neolithic Age.

B. After the end of the last Ice Age (8000 B.C.), the **Neolithic Revolution** began. The word *neolithic* is Greek for "new stone." The revolution was a change from hunting and gathering to systematic agriculture.

C. **Systematic agriculture** means planting crops and **domesticating** (taming) animals for food, clothing, and work. Some historians believe that this agricultural revolution was the single most important event in human history.

D. The ability to acquire food regularly gave humans greater control over their environment and made it possible to give up nomadic ways of life for settling into communities, a step vital for the development of civilization.

E. Systematic agriculture developed all over the world between 8000 and 5000 B.C. **Mesoamericans** (inhabitants of present-day Mexico and Central America), for example, grew beans, squash, and maize (corn). Systematic agriculture gave rise to permanent settlements, which historians call Neolithic farming villages. One was **Jericho,** in Palestine. The largest was **Çatal Hüyük,** in present-day Turkey.

F. Archaeologists found 12 products that were grown in Çatal Hüyük and evidence of widespread domestication of animals. Because of increased food production and storage, people had more food than they needed. These surpluses allowed some people to do work other than farming. **Artisans** made such things as jewelry and weapons. These items fostered trade.

G. Çatal Hüyük also had shrines to and statues of gods and goddesses. These show that religion was gaining importance during the Neolithic period.

H. The Neolithic period brought many important changes: more complex communities were developed, trade caused people to specialize and a division of labor developed, basic crops were first cultivated, and cloth was first woven.

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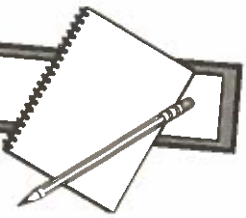
Chapter 1, Section 2



I. Men became more active in farming and herding, which took them away from the home. Women did more domestic tasks like weaving. As men took on more responsibility for obtaining food and protecting the settlements, they played a more dominant role.

J. Between 4000 and 3000 B.C., people learned to use metals. First they used copper. Then people mixed copper and tin to make bronze, a more durable metal. Historians call the period when bronze was in widespread use (3000 to 1200 B.C.) the **Bronze Age.**

Discussion Question

In what ways did the development of agriculture make life better or worse for Neolithic people? *(Answers will vary. Students should show an understanding of the changes agriculture caused in Neolithic life.)*

II. The Emergence of Civilization *(pages 30–31)*

A. **Culture** is a people's way of life. A **civilization** is a complex culture. Historians have identified six characteristics of civilization: cities, government, religion, social structures, writing, and art. The first civilizations and cities developed in river valleys.

B. Generally, the first governments were led by **monarchs** (kings or queens) who organized armies to protect their subjects and made laws to regulate their lives. Religions explained the working of nature and the existence of things. A class of priests developed to perform rituals for pleasing the deities. Many rulers claimed their power came from the divine. Some rulers even claimed to be divine themselves.

C. Social structures developed based on economic status. Rulers, priests, officials, and warriors were the upper classes. Below them was a class of free farmers, traders, artisans, and craftspeople. Below them were slaves and servants.

D. Writing was used to keep records and for creative expression through literature. Arts such as painting and sculpture were developed to portray natural forces or gods and goddesses on temples and shrines.

Discussion Question

Why do you think so many civilizations arose in river valleys? *(Answers will vary. Students should demonstrate an understanding of the needs of a civilization and the resources that a river environment provides.)*

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