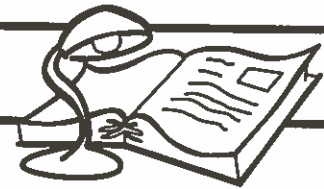


Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 1

For use with textbook pages 19–25

EARLY HUMANS

KEY TERMS

- prehistory** the period in human history before writing was developed (*page 19*)
- archaeology** the study of past societies through an analysis of what people have left behind (*page 19*)
- artifacts** objects that archaeologists examine, such as tools, pottery, paintings, weapons, buildings, and household items (*page 20*)
- anthropology** the study of human life and culture (*page 20*)
- fossils** remains of humans, plants and animals (*page 20*)
- australopithecines** (“southern apes”) the earliest humanlike creatures that lived in Africa three to four million years ago (*page 21*)
- hominids** humans and other creatures that walk upright (*page 21*)
- Homo erectus*** (“upright human being”) a hominid species that emerged around 1.5 million years ago and used fire and larger tools (*page 21*)
- Homo sapiens*** (“wise human being”) a hominid species that emerged around 250,000 years ago and developed into two subgroups, Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens sapiens* (*page 21*)
- Neanderthals** a subgroup of *Homo sapiens* whose remains were first found in the Neander Valley in Germany (*page 21*)
- Homo sapiens sapiens*** (“wise, wise human beings”) the first anatomically modern humans that appeared in Africa between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago (*page 22*)
- Paleolithic Age** (“Old Stone Age”) the early period of human history (approximately 2,500,000 to 10,000 B.C.) when humans used simple stone tools (*page 22*)
- nomads** people who moved from place to place in search of food (*page 23*)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Have you ever wondered about the earliest humans? How did they get their food and clothing? What did they use for shelter?

In this section, you will learn about the early stages of human development. You will also learn how scientists analyze the remains that early humans left behind and what they have learned from these remains.

Reading Essentials and Study Guide



Chapter 1, Section 1 (continued)

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. Three stages in early human development are described in this section. Identify and summarize these stages.

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3
Name of hominids	1.	4.	7.
Time period	2.	5.	8.
Location(s)	3.	6.	9.

READ TO LEARN

- **Before History** (page 19)

Prehistory is the period of human history before writing was developed. Because there are no writings to tell us what happened during this time, scientists must study other things to learn about early humans. **Archaeology** is the study of past societies through an analysis of what people left behind. Archaeologists dig up and study the tools, pottery, paintings, weapons, buildings, and household items that people used. These objects are called **artifacts**. **Anthropology** is the study of human life and culture. Anthropologists use artifacts and human **fossils** (the remains of humans) to find out how early people lived.

Archaeologists and anthropologists use scientific methods to help them with their work. For example, they learn what early people ate by analyzing the bones, skins, and plant seeds that they find. They also need to determine how old the objects are. This is called *dating a find*. One method is radiocarbon dating. This method dates (determines the age of) an object by measuring the amount of radioactive carbon (C-14) left in it. This method can only be used for dating objects that are less than 50,000 years old. Another method is thermoluminescence dating. This method dates objects by measuring the light given off by electrons in the soil around the objects. This method helps scientists date objects as far back as 200,000 years ago. Scientists have also begun to use biological methods, such as DNA testing, to learn more about the lives of early people.

10. How do archaeologists and anthropologists determine the age of the objects they find?

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Chapter 1, Section 1 (continued)

• Early Stages of Development (page 21)

Archaeologists and anthropologists use their discoveries to create theories about early human history. According to the current theory, there were three stages in the development of early humans. The earliest humanlike creatures lived in Africa three to four million years ago. They were called **australopithecines** or “southern apes” by their discoverer, Donald Johanson. They lived in eastern and southern Africa. They were the first hominids to make stone tools. **Hominids** are humans and other creatures that walk upright. Archaeologists have recently discovered a skull that they think is from yet another form of hominid. They think it is about 3.5 million years old. It is called Kenyanthropus platyops (the flat-faced man of Kenya).

The second stage in human development is marked by the appearance of **Homo erectus** (“upright human being”). These hominids emerged about 1.5 million years ago in Africa. Then they moved into Europe and Asia. They used fire and made larger and more varied tools.

The third stage in human development began about 250,000 years ago. This stage is marked by the emergence of **Homo sapiens** (“wise human being”). Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens sapiens* both developed from *Homo sapiens*.

The remains of **Neanderthals** were first discovered in the Neander Valley in Germany. Remains have also been found throughout Europe and Southwest Asia. Neanderthals lived between 100,000 and 30,000 B.C. They used a variety of stone tools and buried their dead. They also made clothes from animal skins.

Homo sapiens sapiens (“wise, wise human being”) appeared in Africa 150,000 to 200,000 years ago. They were the first anatomically modern humans (people who looked like us). By 30,000 B.C., they had replaced the Neanderthals. They spread gradually from Africa to other parts of the world. All humans today belong to the subgroup *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

11. What two subgroups developed from *Homo sapiens*?

• The Hunter-Gatherers of the Old Stone Age (page 22)

Early humans used tools made of stone. The period in history when humans used simple stone tools is called the **Paleolithic Age** (“Old Stone Age”). This period lasted from about 2,500,000 to 10,000 B.C. During this period, humans used hunting and gathering to get their food. They gathered

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Chapter 1, Section 1 (continued)

wild nuts, berries, fruits, wild grains, and green plants. They hunted and ate various animals, such as buffalo, horses, reindeer, and fish. They were **nomads** (people who moved from place to place). They moved in order to find food. Both men and women were responsible for finding food. Men probably did most of the hunting of large animals. Women may have gathered berries, nuts, and grains, so that they could stay closer to their camps.

Paleolithic people found shelter in caves. They also created shelters made of wood poles or sticks covered with animals hides. They used fire to stay warm and to protect themselves from wild animals. They also used fire to cook food. Archaeologists believe that friction (rubbing two pieces of wood together) was probably the earliest method for starting fires. Fire allowed humans to survive during the Ice Ages. During the most recent Ice Age, ice covered large parts of Europe, Asia, and North America. This Ice Age lasted from about 100,000 B.C. to 8000 B.C.

Paleolithic people also created art. Cave paintings have been found in various parts of the world, including Lascaux in southwestern France and Altamira in northern Spain. Most cave paintings focused on large animals, such as lions, oxen, and panthers. According to archaeologists, these cave paintings were done between 25,000 and 12,000 B.C.

12. How did Paleolithic people get their food?

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Chapter 1, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 27–31

THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION AND THE RISE OF CIVILIZATION

KEY TERMS

Neolithic Revolution the revolution that occurred in the Neolithic Age, the period of human history from 8000 to 4000 b.c. (page 27)

systematic agriculture the growing of food on a regular basis (page 28)

domestication the adaptation of animals for human use (page 28)

artisans skilled workers who made products such as weapons and jewelry (page 29)

Bronze Age the period of history from around 3000 to 1200 b.c. that was characterized by the widespread use of bronze (page 30)

culture the way of life of a people (page 30)

civilization a complex culture in which large numbers of human beings share a number of common elements (page 30)

monarchs kings or queens who rule a kingdom (page 30)

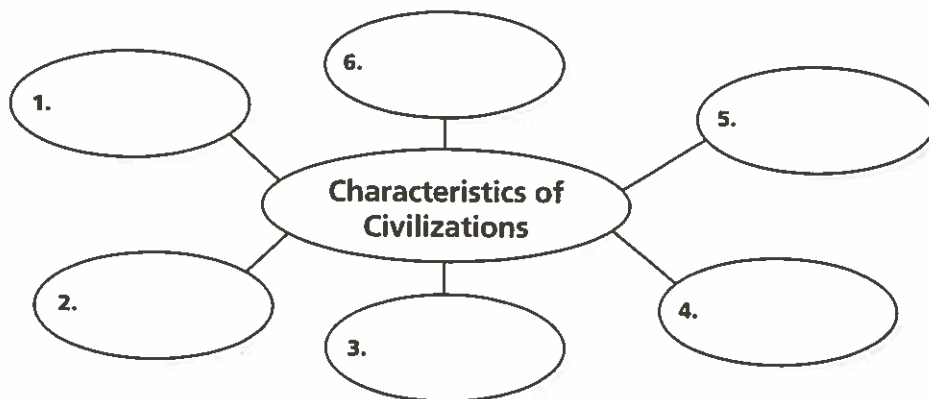
DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

Imagine that you are asked to make a display that is a representation of your culture. What items would you include? Why?

In the last section, you read about the early stages of human development. You also learned about the culture (way of life) of Paleolithic people. In this section, you will learn about the culture of people in the Neolithic Age. You will also learn how the Neolithic Revolution set the stage for the rise of civilization.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the concept web below to help you take notes. A civilization has six main characteristics. Name the characteristics.



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Chapter 1, Section 2 (continued)

READ TO LEARN

• The Neolithic Revolution

At the end of the last Ice Age, around 8000 B.C., a major change took place. People began to plant and grow food on a regular basis—what we call **systematic agriculture**. They also began to tame and keep animals as a source of meat, milk, and wool. This adaptation of animals for human use is called **domestication**. The change from gathering food and hunting animals to planting crops and taming animals is called the **Neolithic Revolution**, because it took place in the Neolithic Age. The Neolithic Age is the period of human history from 8000 to 4000 B.C. Some historians believe this revolution was the single most important development in human history. It gave humans greater control over their environment. It also meant that they could stop being nomads and live in settled communities.

Between 8000 and 5000 B.C., systematic agriculture developed in different parts of the world. People in Southwest Asia began to grow wheat and barley and to domesticate (tame) pigs, cows, goats, and sheep. Farming spread from southwestern Asia into Europe, Egypt, and parts of India. A different kind of farming developed in parts of Africa. Root crops, such as yams, and tree crops, such as bananas, were grown in central Africa. In Southeast Asia and in southern China, rice began to be grown. In the Western Hemisphere, Mesoamericans (people who lived in present-day Mexico and Central America) grew beans, squash, and maize (corn). They also domesticated dogs and fowl during this period.

Because people were no longer forced to move from place to place to find food, they began to live in settlements. Historians call these settlements Neolithic farming villages. Two of the largest ones were Jericho, in Palestine near the Dead Sea, and Catal Huyuk, in what is present-day Turkey. People often had more food than they needed right away. This made it possible for people to do things other than farming. For example, some people became artisans. **Artisans** were skilled workers who made items such as weapons and jewelry. These items could be traded with other people. In Catal Huyuk, shrines and statues show that religion had an important role in the lives of Neolithic people.

The Neolithic Revolution led to other changes. People began to build houses and to store food and other goods. They could trade the food and goods for other things. People began to specialize in different crafts, and a division of labor developed. Fibers from plants, such as flax and cotton, were used to make cloth. The relationship between men and women also changed. Men became more active in farming and herding animals. Women cared for the children, wove cloth, and performed other tasks that they could do in the home settlement. As a result, men began to play a more dominant role.

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Chapter 1, Section 2 (continued)

Between 4000 and 3000 B.C., people began to use metals. This allowed them to have even more control over their environments. Copper was the first metal that was used to make tools. After 4000 B.C., people in western Asia learned how to make bronze, by combining copper and tin. The period from around 3000 to 1200 B.C. is called the **Bronze Age** because of the widespread use of bronze during this time.

7. What changes took place during the Neolithic Age?

• The Emergence of Civilization (page 30)

The **culture** of a people is the way of life that they follow. Neolithic settlements developed from villages with simple cultures to large civilizations. A **civilization** is a complex culture in which large numbers of human beings share a number of common elements. Historians have identified the basic characteristics of civilizations. Six of these characteristics are cities, government, religion, social structure, writing, and art.

In each civilization, a significant part of the population lived in cities. Governments organized armies to protect the people and made laws to regulate their lives. In the first civilizations, rulers led governments. These rulers were usually **monarchs** (kings or queens who rule a kingdom).

All of the new civilizations developed religions to explain their world. Priests performed rituals to please gods and goddesses. Rulers claimed that the gods gave their power to them. Some rulers even claimed to be gods.

New social structures developed in the new civilizations. Rulers and an upper class of priests, government officials, and warriors were at the top. Below this upper class was a large group of free people-farmers, artisans, and craftspeople. At the bottom was a slave class.

Writing was important in these new civilizations. Rulers, priests, and merchants used writing to keep accurate records. Writing also became a means of creative expression. The world's first works of literature were written. Art was also a characteristic of the new civilizations. People began to build temples as places for worship and sacrifice. They built pyramids as places to bury kings and other important people. They also began to use painting and sculpture to portray gods and goddesses or natural forces.

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Chapter 1, Section 2 *(continued)*

8. How are civilizations different from simpler cultures?
