Chapter 1: The Rise of Civilization, Prehistory – c. 2300 B.C.

Lesson 2: The Neolithic Revolution
1. Where do scientists believe that *Homo sapiens sapiens* first appeared between 150,000 and 200,000 years ago?

2. Who were the first hominids to learn to make fires deliberately?
   A. *Homo habilis*.      C. *Homo sapiens sapiens*.
   B. *Homo sapiens*.      D. *Australopithecus*.

3. Anthropology is the study of
   A. Underground insects.          C. Human life and culture.
It Matters Because

• The development of **systematic agriculture** was a dramatic change, or **revolution**, during the **Neolithic Age**.

• The transition of humans from nomadic hunters to farmers and herders is part of the **Neolithic Revolution**.

• This **revolution** led to the development of traditional economies based on **agriculture** with limited trade.
The Development of Agriculture

• Guiding Question: How did developments in the Neolithic period impact early human history?

• The end of the last Ice Age, around 8000 B.C., was followed by what is called the Neolithic Revolution – that is, the revolution that occurred in the Neolithic Age, the period of human history from around 8000 B.C. to 4000 B.C.

• The word Neolithic comes from Greek words meaning “new stone.”

• The name New Stone Age, however, is somewhat misleading.

• The real change in the Neolithic Revolution was the shift from the hunting of animals and the gathering of food to the development of agriculture.

• With agriculture, animals were domesticated rather than hunted.

• In addition, rather than gathering food, people now grew and harvested food on a regular basis.

• Today we call this systematic agriculture.
The Development of Agriculture

• Early humans had to move from place to place, following herds and finding plants.
• During the Neolithic Age, humans began planting crops, providing a regular food source.
• Domestication of animals, adapting them for human use, added a reliable source of meat, milk, and wool. (Domestication- adapting animals for human use).
• Animals could also be used to do work.
• Growing crops and taming food-producing animals caused an agricultural revolution.
• Because there was enough food, humans had more control over their lives.
• Sufficient food also meant they could give up their nomadic ways of life and begin to live in settled communities.
• Some historians believe this revolution was the single most important development in human history.
The Development of Agriculture

• This shift to food producing from hunting and gathering was not as sudden as was once believed.
• During the Mesolithic Age ("Middle Stone Age," about 10,000 B.C. to 7000 B.C.), there was a gradual shift from the old food-gathering and hunting economy to a food-producing one.
• There was also a gradual taming of animals.
• Moreover, throughout the Neolithic period, hunting and gathering remained a way of life for many people.
• Between 8000 B.C. and 5000 B.C., systematic agriculture developed in various parts of the world.
• In Southwest Asia, people began growing wheat and barley and domesticating pigs, cows, goats, and sheep by 8000 B.C. From there, farming spread into Southeastern Europe.
• By 4000 B.C., farming was well established in central Europe and the coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea.
The Development of Agriculture

• By 6000 B.C., the cultivation of wheat and barley had spread into the Nile Valley of Egypt.
• These crops soon spread up the Nile to other areas of Africa – Sudan and Ethiopia.
• In central Africa, a separate farming system emerged.
• There, people grew root crops called tubers, such as yams, and tree crops, such as bananas.
• Wheat and barley farming also moved eastward into India between 7000 B.C. and 5000 B.C.
• By 5000 B.C., farmers in Southeast Asia were growing rice.
• From there, rice farming spread into southern China.
• By 6000 B.C., farming millet and **domesticating** dogs and pigs seem to have been established in northern China.
• **In the Western Hemisphere, Mesoamericans** – inhabitants of present-day Mexico and Central America – grew beans, squash, and maize (corn).
• They also **domesticated** dogs and fowl in this period between 7000 B.C. and 5000 B.C.
Neolithic Farming Villages

• Growing crops on a regular basis gave rise to more permanent settlements called Neolithic farming villages.

• These villages appeared in Europe, India, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica.

• The oldest and biggest villages, however, were located in Southwest Asia.

  • Jericho, near the Dead Sea, was in existence by 8000 B.C.
  • Çatalhüyük in modern Turkey was an even larger community, covering 32 acres. Between 6700 B.C. and 5700 B.C., the city probably had 6,000 inhabitants.

• Their simple mud brick houses were built so close together that there were few streets.

• People walked on the roofs and entered their homes through holes in the rooftops.
Çatalhüyük Archaeological Site

Yann Arthus-Bertrand/CORBIS
Neolithic Farming Villages

- Archaeologists have found a dozen products that were grown outside the city walls, including fruits, nuts, and wheat.
- **Domesticated** animals provided meat, milk, and hides.
- Scenes on the walls of the city’s ruins show that the people also hunted.
- **As a result of the steady food supply, Çatalhüyük had a food surplus.**
- **Specialization of labor (work)** began when not all villagers needed to farm.
- Some became **artisans**, or skilled workers, making goods to trade with neighboring people. These goods were **bartered** (exchanged), not sold.
- This was the beginning of a traditional economy based on **agriculture** and some trade.
- **Besides homes, Çatalhüyük had special buildings that were shrines containing figures of gods and goddesses.**
- Statues of women giving birth or nursing a child have also been found there.
- Both the shrines and the statues point to the growing **role** of **religion** in the lives of Neolithic peoples.
Effects of the Neolithic Revolution

- The **Neolithic agricultural revolution** caused dramatic changes that affected how people would live to the present day.
- When people began settling in villages or towns, they saw the need to build walls for protection and storehouses for goods.
- Storing surplus products encouraged trade.
- Trading encouraged more people to learn crafts.
- This led to the **division of labor (work)**.
- As **artisans** became more skilled, they made more refined tools.
- Flint blades were used to make sickles and hoes for farming.
- Eventually, many of the food plants still in use today began to be cultivated.
- Some plants, such as flax and cotton, were used to make yam and cloth.
Effects of the Neolithic Revolution

• The development of agriculture also had a major effect on how men and women related to one another.

• Men became more active in farming and herding animals, jobs that took them away from the settlement.

• Instead of the whole family moving as in earlier times, women remained behind. They cared for children, wove cloth for clothes, and did other tasks that kept them in one place.

• As men took on more and more responsibility for obtaining food and protecting the settlement, they began to play a more dominant role in society.
The End of the Neolithic Age

- Between 4000 B.C. and 3000 B.C., new developments began to affect some Neolithic towns.
- Even before 4000 B.C., craftspeople discovered that by heating metal-bearing rocks they could turn the metal into liquid.
- The liquid metal could be poured into molds (casts), to make tools and weapons.
- The use of metals marked a new level of control over the environment.
- Copper was the first metal to be used in making tools.
- After 4000 B.C., artisans in western Asia discovered that combining copper and tin created bronze – a metal harder and more durable than copper.
- The widespread use of bronze led to the Bronze Age from around 3000 B.C. to 1200 B.C.
- After about 1000 B.C., the use of iron tools and weapons became common in an era known as the Iron Age.
Tools of the Neolithic, Bronze, and Iron Ages

Neolithic Age—8000 B.C. to 4000 B.C.

This is a stone axe hand tool from the Neolithic Age.

Bronze Age—3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.

Steve Gorton/Dorling Kindersley/Getty Images
This is a socketed hand axe from the Bronze Age.

Iron Age—1200 B.C. to A.D. 500

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These are four tools of the Iron Age.
The End of the Neolithic Age

- The **Neolithic Age** set the stage for major changes to come.
- As people mastered farming, some villages developed more complex and wealthier societies.
- To protect their wealth, they built armies and city walls.
- By the beginning of the **Bronze Age**, large numbers of people were concentrated in the **river valleys** of **Mesopotamia**, **Egypt**, **India**, and **China**.
- These farming villages led to the development of **cities**.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• Guiding Question: How would you define civilization?

• Whether analyzing societies of the past or the present, anthropologists describe the culture – the way of life – of a people in a certain time and place.

• From earliest times, humans lived in small nomadic groups with simple cultures that helped them survive.

• When humans settled in permanent villages, their cultures became more complex.

• Gradually, more complex cultures developed into a new form of human society called civilization.
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. 6 of the most important characteristics are:

1. Cities
2. Government
3. Religion
4. Social Structure
5. Writing
6. Art
Culture is the way of life of a people in a certain time and place. Examples include the Neanderthal culture in Europe 20,000 years ago, the Inca culture 500 years ago, or the Japanese culture of today.

Civilization refers to a complex culture in which large numbers of people share several common elements. There are six basic characteristics of civilizations: cities, government, religion, social structure, writing, and art.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• The development of farming determined where people lived.
• The first civilizations developed in river valleys where physical geographic factors such as plentiful water and fertile land allowed people to carry on the large-scale farming that was needed to feed a large population.
• As food became abundant, more people would live in cities.
• New factors of human geography such as government, religion, social structures, and trade networks, soon emerged and began to shape civilization.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• Economics determined many of the political changes that came with the **Neolithic Revolution**.

• Growing numbers of people made food production a central concern and led to more demanding processes, like irrigation.

• The organization and leadership required for such projects to succeed led to the growth of **governments**.

• **Governments** in early **civilizations**, usually led by a **king (monarch)**, organized armies to protect their populations and made laws to regulate their subjects’ lives.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• Important religious developments also characterized the new urban (city/town) civilizations.

• All of them developed religions to explain the forces of nature and their roles in the world.

• They believed that gods and goddesses were important to the community’s success.

• To win their favor, priests supervised rituals aimed at pleasing them.

• This gave the priests special power and made them very important people.

• Rulers also claimed that their power was based on divine approval, and some rulers claimed to be divine.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• A new social structure based on economic power also arose.
• Rulers and an upper class of priests, government officials, and warriors dominated society.
• Below this class was a large group of free people—farmers, artisans, and craftspeople.
• At the bottom was a slave class.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

• The demand of the upper class for luxury items, such as jewelry and pottery, encouraged artisans and craftspeople to create new products.

• As urban populations exported finished goods to neighboring populations in exchange for raw materials, organized trade began to grow.

• Because trade brought new civilizations into contact with one another, it often led to the transfer of new technology, such as metals for tools and new farming techniques, from one region to another.

• Competition for raw materials between neighboring groups also led to the first mass conflicts, or wars.

• By and large, however, the early river valley civilizations developed independently.

• Each one was based on developments connected to the agricultural revolution of the Neolithic Age and the cities that this revolution helped produce.

• Taken together, the civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China constituted nothing less than a revolutionary stage in the growth of human society.
Development of the River Valley Civilizations

- **Writing** was an important feature in the life of these new civilizations.
- Above all, rulers, **priests**, merchants, and **artisans** used **writing** to keep accurate records.
- Of course, **not** all civilizations depended on **writing** to keep records.
- The Inca in Peru, for example, relied on well-trained memory experts to keep track of their important matters.
- Eventually, the earliest civilizations used **writing** for creative expression as well as for record keeping. This produced the world’s first works of literature.
- Significant artistic activity was another feature of the new civilizations.
- Architects built temples and pyramids as places for worship or sacrifice or for the burial of kings and other important people.
- Painters and sculptors portrayed stories of nature.
- They also depicted the rulers and gods they worshiped.
Assignment

• Complete Chapter 1, Lesson 2 Quiz.
• You are allowed to use your notes to assist you on completing your quiz, but NOT your Chromebook or phone!
• Turn your quiz into the organizer after you have finished completing it.
• Make sure your name is on your quiz before you turn it in!