* **What is History?** 
  + from Greek *ἱστορία* - *historia*, meaning "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation"
    - Effort to reconstruct the past to discover what people thought, what they did, and how their beliefs and actions influence human life
* Periods of historical study –
  + Pre-History / Prehistoric times - 4,000,000 BC – 3500 BC (Prior to writing)
  + Ancient History/ Classical history – 3500 BC - AD 500 (Middle Ages)

How do we study history?

* Primary Sources: *Original* documents, by someone who experienced the event. Can be an artifact, a document, a recording, a video, etc.
* Secondary Sources: Written by someone else (usually a historian, in the case of history) who did *not* experience the event.

Chapter 1, section 1 – Understanding our Past

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Hominids** | |
| **Group** | **Summary** | |
| **Australopithecines** | * Earliest hominids * Lived in Africa * Appeared as early as 7 million years ago | |
| **Homo Habilis** | * Emerged about 2 million years ago * Made stone tools for cutting, scraping, chopping, or sawing plants, animals and wood | |
| **Homo Erectus** | * Appeared around 2 million years ago, walked upright * Had larger brains and bones and smaller teeth than other hominids * Thought to be first to use fire and to migrate out of Africa * Made hand axes | |
| **Homo Sapiens** | * Emerged between 100,000 and 250,000 years ago * May have lived in Africa, then migrated into rest of world, or may have developed from *Homo erectus* in different parts of the world * Divided into two groups: **Neanderthals** and **early modern humans** * Between 50,000 and 30,000 years ago Neanderthals disappeared; early modern humans are now the only hominids on Earth | |

Chapter 1, section 2: Turning Point – the Neolithic Revolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Life before farming | Life After framing |
| * Old Stone Age/Paleolithic * Nomads; hunted and gathered food * Lived in bands of 20 to 30 * Made simple tools out of stone, bone, and wood * Built fires and made clothing * Developed spoken language * Learned to cross water * Showed belief in a spiritual world, buried their dead, and made cave paintings | * New Stone Age/Neolithic * Grew own food, no longer nomads * Farmers settled in the first permanent villages, including Çatalhüyük and Jericho. * Developed new skills and technologies, including plant and animal domestication, and calendars. * Men began to dominate family, economic, and political life. * Differences in wealth appeared. |

Notes:

Old Vs. New Stone Age

**Paleolithic (old stone age) 2.5 mya 🡪 Neolithic (New Stone Age)**

**10,000 years ago - 3,500 BCE**

* Begins with the use of stone tools

During the Neolithic era fundamental changes in society took place because of the new tools in use.

* Life based on agriculture, domesticated animals and permanent settlements

Evolution of towns & cities

* Farming produces a surplus (“extra” food)
* Population Growth – more food = healthier population = population boom
  + W/ more people --> Greater reliance on farming to sustain the population
    - Domesticate animals & develop new farming tools = more food
  + W/ a surplus food can be bartered (traded) = cultural/ technological exchange
* Division on labor – specialization
  + Farmers, craftsmen, artisans (things get made better & faster)
  + More time & More people = public building projects 🡪 requires leadership to organize & collect taxes to pay for it.
* Wealthier, more comfortable & complex life style develop…. **Civilization**

Chapter 1, Section 3: The Beginnings of Civilization

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Rise of Cities and Civilizations**   * Located near major rivers * River valley civilizations arose in the Middle East, Egypt, India, and China. * In the Americas, early civilizations arose in the highlands; they may have begun as religious centers. * Away from the cities, people lived as hunters, gatherers, famers, and nomads. | **Features of Civilizations**   * Cities * Organized governments * Complex religions * Job specialization * Social classes * Arts and architecture * Public Works * Writing | **Changes Over Time**   * Changes in the physical environment caused civilizations to change. * Interactions among people and cultural diffusion caused civilizations to change. * As rulers grew more powerful, civilizations began to center around city-states and empires. |

Notes:

Why River Valleys

* 1. Regular water supply
* 2. Transportation
* 3. Animals go to water = food supply
* 4. Good for farming (floods spread silt, creating fertile soil)  
  5. b/c of farming condition farmers can produce a surplus of food and support a growing population



