Chapter 3

Early Humans 8000 B.C.- 2000 B.C.

The Paleolithic Age!!!

-The earliest part of human history is the stone age.

- They call it this because they used stones as tools and weapons.

The Paleolithic age began about 2.5 million years ago and lasted until around 8000B.C.

Paleolithic people moved around in search of food. This meant that they were ***NOMADIC***. Which means they moved from place to place in search of food.

They typically travelled in groups of about 20-30 people.

They hunted animals such as buffalo, bison, wild goats, reindeer, and other animals.

Men hunted in the groups. The women stayed close to the camp-which was typically by a body of water. They looked after children and found fruits, nuts, and grains.

Men and women started forming pairs and working in monogamous pairs to hunt and find food.

Technology- tools and methods to perform tasks- were first used by the Paleolithic people.

They first started hitting flint together and making sharp stone to help them hunt and cut their food.

Eventually they started making more complex tools such as spears, and bows and arrows.

They eventually started using smaller sharp tools that helped them sew animal hides for clothes and shelter.

Climate affected how Paleolithic people lived. If you lived in a cold climate, finding warm clothing from animal skins to stay warm was a high priority.

They would also need to construct their own houses. Remember there weren’t houses or apartment buildings in the Paleolithic age.

People living in warmer climates needed little clothing or shelter. They still lived in caves for safety or comfort.

Life became easier when they learned how to make fire. It provided warmth, light, and cooked their food.

Scientists think they learned how to make fire through friction. They rubbed two pieces of wood together and the wood became heated and charred.

Another important development during the Paleolithic age was the development of spoken language.

They used spoken language the same reason that we do---to communicate. Before language, they used sounds and physical gestures to communicate.

They also started to express themselves through art. They would create cave paintings with crushed yellow, black, and red rocks and combine them with animal fat to create paint.

We believe they created these paintings to bring them luck on their hunts.

 The ICE AGES were long periods of extreme cold that affected all of Earth. The most recent ice age was about 100,000 years ago.

Huge sheets of ice moved across Europe and created glaciers. These sheets of ice and glaciers created low sea levels and created temporary land bridges. This allowed early people to move from Asia to North America.

People had to adapt to these harsh climate changes and enriched their meals with more animal fat. They also learned how to build sturdier shelters and create warmer clothes. The ice age lasted about 90,000 years.

**Chapter 3-Lesson 2**

**The Agricultural revolution**

For the first time in history, people started staying in one place to grow grains and vegetables.

People even began to **DOMESTICATE** animals- they would tame them for human use. Animals transported goods, provided meat, milk, and wool.

This change in the way people lived was called the Neolithic Age. It ran from about 8,000B.C.- 4,000 B.C.

The real change in the Neolithic Age was the change from hunting and gathering to developing **SYSTEMATIC AGRICULTURE**.

The word *revolution* refers to any change that has an enormous effect on people’s ways of life.

Now that people started growing crops they could live a different type of life. They could start living in settled communities. Some historians (not Cooper) consider the agricultural revolution the greatest event in human history.

In 8000 B.C. People in southwest Asia began to grow crops of wheat and barley. They also started to domesticate pigs, cows, goats, and sheep. This soon spread to southeastern Europe. It then spread to parts of Africa…including Egypt and along the Nile.

People started to settle in villages. They located their villages near fields so they could plant grow, and harvest their crops easier.

They also NEEDED to settle next to bodies of water.

In addition to the changes in lifestyle, people started to create **SHRINES***-* or holy places. There they would worship the gods and goddesses.

As people didn’t have to worry about their food supply as much, people started to have larger families. Populations grew larger and larger.

People began to **SPECIALIZE**- took up specific jobs as their talents allowed. Some people became artisans or skilled workers. They made weapons, jewelry and they traded with neighboring communities. They also made pots to store food.

The roles of men and women were...

 -Men- farm, hunt, herd animals, protect the village.

 -Women- took care of kids, made clothing, managed food supplies as well as other tasks.

The men also became community leaders.

In some places the population grew so fast that the people there depleted their resources so fast, they had to abandon their village.

During the Neolithic Age a lot more technological advances were made. People invented better tools for farming. They started to work with metals and copper (better weapons). They eventually created bronze- which was stronger than copper.

Bronze was used from 3000 B.C. – 1200 B.C. This period is known as the Bronze Age.

During the Bronze Age, more and more complex civilizations began to appear. There were 4 major civilizations- Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. All four of these major civilizations centered around some body of water.

Civilizations obviously had to start around water for drinking, fish, and transportation. The river’s transportation system encouraged trade between multiple civilizations.

People started to form governments to protect themselves and their food supplies.

The first governments were called **MONARCHIES**- This is a type of government that is led by a king or queen. They created armies to defend against enemies and also to make laws and keep order.

They also appointed officials who managed food supplies and building projects.

Religions started to emerge in the new civilizations to help people to explain their lives.

Early people believed that the gods were responsible for every event that took place in their lives.

Rulers even claimed that their own power was based on the approval of the gods.

Social structures started to occur. People in the society were organized into groups. There were the…

**UPPER CLASS** (RICH PEOPLE)- rulers, priest/priestess, government officials

**MIDDLE CLASS** – Everyday people – farmers artisans, and craftspeople

**LOWER CLASS-** Poor people- slaves

The invention of writing was invented as a way to pass on information or keep track of records.

Civilizations also created art for enjoyment and practical purposes.

Artisans created paintings and sculptures portraying gods and forces of nature. They designed massive buildings for places of worship or burial tombs for kings.