

Ch. 3 Prehistoric Human History

Vocabulary

- ♦ Paleolithic: relating to the earliest period of the stone age
- ♦ Nomads: people who move from place to place as a group to find food for themselves
- ♦ Technology: tools and methods to perform tasks; an ability gained by the practical use of knowledge
- ♦ Ice Age: A time when glaciers covered much of the land

Vocabulary

- ♦ Domesticate: to adapt an animal to living with humans for the advantage of humans
- ♦ Neolithic Age: Relating to the latest period of the stone age
- ♦ Systematic Agriculture: the organized growing of food on a regular schedule
- ♦ Shrine: a place where people worship

Vocabulary

- ♦ Bronze Age: the period in ancient human culture when people began to make and use bronze
- ♦ Specialization: the act of training for a particular job
- ♦ Monarchy: a government whose ruler, a king or queen, inherits the position from a parent

Ch. 3.1 Hunter- Gatherers

The Paleolithic Age

- ♦ The early period of human history is called the Stone Age
 - ♦ Because humans started using stone as tools and weapons
- ♦ The earliest part of this period is known as the Paleolithic Age
- ♦ Paleolithic means “old stone” in Greek
- ♦ This age began 2.5 million years ago and lasted until 8000 B.C.E.
- ♦ That is 4500 years earlier than recorded time, which starts about 5500 years ago

Surviving in the Paleolithic Age

- ♦ Since there were no farms, grocery stores, roads or villages, people moved around a lot in search of food
- ♦ These people, known as nomads, traveled in groups of 20-30 in order to survive
- ♦ Their search for food was their main activity but also difficult
- ♦ They hunted buffalo, bison, wild goats, reindeer and other animals depending on where they lived
- ♦ They also gathered wild nuts, berries, wild grains, and green plants

Finding Food

- ♦ Men and women performed different tasks to help the group survive
- ♦ Men would hunt larger animals, some far away from camp
 - ♦ Used to use clubs or run animals off cliffs
 - ♦ Over time developed tools and weapons (traps and spears)
- ♦ Women stayed close to the camp and watched after children, and gathered berries, grains, and nuts
- ♦ Camps were located near some sort of water supply

The Invention of Tools

- ♦ The methods Paleolithic people used to hunt and gather were
- ♦ Before the invention of tools, people were limited to what they could observe
- ♦ Later, people began to use tools to hunt and gather
- ♦ By the time of the Neolithic Revolution, people could
- ♦ Over time, people began to use tools to make large
- ♦ By the time of the Industrial Revolution, people had needles and blankets



Changing to Survive

- ♦ Some early people lived in cold climates and had to make clothing and shelters out of animal skins
- ♦ They also used natural shelters like caves for protection
- ♦ Eventually people learned to make shelters out of wood and bones from large animals

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Language and Art

- ♦ Early Paleolithic people also began developing spoken language
- ♦ They used this to communicate information
- ♦ It was an ever changing language, as new technology and experiences required new words
- ♦ Early people also used art to communicate
- ♦ In caves all around the world, there are early paintings of animals

The Ice Ages

- ♦ The last Ice Age began about 100,000 years ago
- ♦ Thick sheets of ice covered large parts of Europe, Asia and North America
- ♦ When the ice sheets or glaciers grew larger land was exposed
- ♦ In order to adapt, people began building sturdier shelters and ate more fatty foods
- ♦ The last Ice Age lasted about 90,000 years and ended between 9,000 and 8,000 B.C.E.

The Agricultural Revolution

Neolithic Times

- ♦ After the Ice Age ended, Earth's temperatures rose
- ♦ As the planet warmed, Nomads moved into areas with a mild climate and fertile land
- ♦ For the first time people began staying in one place to grow grains and vegetables
- ♦ Farming began replacing hunting and gathering
- ♦ People started domesticating animals
 - ♦ Animals transported goods
 - ♦ Provided meat, milk and wool

Neolithic Age

- ♦ Began about 8000 B.C.E and ended around 4000 B.C.E.
- ♦ Neolithic is Greek for “new stone”
- ♦ However this is misleading
- ♦ While new stone tools were made, the real change was the shift from hunting and gathering to systematic agriculture
- ♦ This was a slow change and at the beginning still saw many people hunting and gathering

Big Changes for Humankind

- ♦ This settled farming became known as the Agricultural Revolution
- ♦ Early farmers saved some of the grain that was gathered in order to plant it and grow their own
- ♦ This new method of food production allowed the population to grow at a faster rate
- ♦ The nomads gave up their old way of life and began living in settled communities

Widespread Farming

8000 B.C.E.

- People in Southwest Asia grew wheat and barley. Domesticated pigs, cows, goats and sheep
- In India wheat and barley farming began

6000 B.C.E.

- Wheat and barley grown in Nile Valley. In Central Africa people grew yams and bananas
- China was growing a grain called millet and domesticating dogs and pigs

5000-4000
B.C.E.

- Southeast Asia farmers were growing rice. Farmers in Mexico and Central America were growing corn, squash and potatoes and domesticated dogs and chickens
- Farming in Europe was an established economic activity

Neolithic Communities

- ♦ One of the oldest communities was found in Jericho
 - ♦ Established around 8000 B.C.E.
 - ♦ Extended several acres
 - ♦ Sun-dried-brick houses were surrounded by walls several feet thick
- ♦ Catalhuyuk
 - ♦ Between 6700 and 5700 B.C.E it was home to 6,000 people
 - ♦ Lived in mud houses decorated with wall paintings
 - ♦ Built shrines with images of gods and goddesses
 - ♦ Grew fruits, nuts and different grains
 - ♦ Kept food in storerooms
 - ♦ Domesticated animals for food, and milk

Benefits of a Settled Society

- ♦ Provided protection from weather and wild animals
- ♦ Steady food supply created healthier, growing populations
- ♦ Growing population led to more workers who became specialized in jobs
- ♦ Made weapons, pottery and jewelry that they traded for other supplies
- ♦ One downside was that with growing population, resources were used faster

End of the Neolithic Age

- ♦ At the end of the Neolithic Age, people made more technological advances
- ♦ Toolmakers made better farming tools
 - ♦ Hoes for digging soil, sickles for cutting grain and millstones for grinding flour
- ♦ In some regions people began working with copper
- ♦ Copper weapons and tools were easier to use and make
- ♦ In western Asia, craftspeople discovered that mixing copper and tin formed bronze
- ♦ Between 3000 and 1200 B.C.E. bronze was widely used
 - ♦ Called the Bronze Age
 - ♦ People who couldn't afford bronze used stone

Civilizations Emerge

- ♦ Humans continued to develop more complex cultures
- ♦ By the beginning of the Bronze Age, communities were widespread
- ♦ More complex cultures called civilizations began to develop
- ♦ Four great river valley civilizations emerged around 3000 B.C.E.
 - ♦ Mesopotamia
 - ♦ Egypt
 - ♦ China
 - ♦ India

Cities and Government

- ♦ Cities were set up along rivers
- ♦ This provided fertile land, fish, water and a way to trade
- ♦ People formed governments to protect themselves and food supplies
- ♦ Early governments were monarchies
- ♦ The kings or queens created armies to defend against enemies and made laws to keep order
- ♦ Also appointed officials to help manage food supplies and building projects

Religions

- ♦ Religions emerged to help people explain their lives
- ♦ Used to help explain forces of nature
- ♦ Priests performed ceremonies to win the support of gods
- ♦ Rulers say they got their powers from the gods

Social Structure

- ♦ Early civilizations set up social structures
- ♦ Groups were defined by the work people did or how much wealth they had
- ♦ Rulers, priests, government officials and warriors made up the higher class
 - ♦ Set rules and made the important decisions
- ♦ Next came free people including farmers, artisans and craftspeople
- ♦ Bottom group was enslaved people

Writing and Art

- ♦ To pass on information people invented ways to write
- ♦ Used symbols in place of words or sounds
- ♦ Used writing to keep accurate records and tell stories
- ♦ Created art for enjoyment
- ♦ Paintings and sculptures portrayed gods and forces of nature
- ♦ Designed massive buildings that served as places of worship or burial tombs for kings