

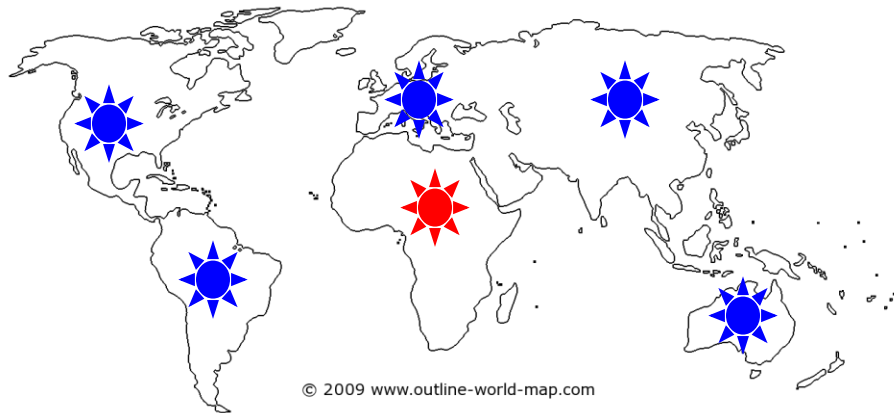
Unit 2: Paleolithic Era to Agricultural Revolution

Standard(s) of Learning:

WHI.2 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of early development of humankind from the Paleolithic Era to the agricultural revolution by:

- Explaining the impact of geographic environment on hunter-gatherer societies
 - Listing characteristics of hunter-gatherer societies, including their use of tools and fire
 - Describing technological and social advancements that gave rise to stable communities
 - Explaining how archaeological discoveries are changing present-day knowledge of early people
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Part I: WHI.2a - Geographic Environment & Hunter-Gatherer Societies



Early Man Emerges

- Life in early hunter-gatherer societies was shaped by their **physical environment**
- Homo sapiens emerged in east **Africa** between **100,000** and **400,000** years ago
- Early humans were **hunters** and **gatherers** whose survival depended on the availability of **wild plants** and **animals**

The Ice Age & Early Man Migration

- Ice Ages are periods of extreme **cold** weather that the Earth experiences
- The last Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago
- During the Ice Ages large parts of the Earth were covered in **ice**, sea levels dropped, and **land bridges**, such as the **Bering Strait**, appeared that allowed animals and humans to **migrate** to other areas
- Homo sapiens migrated from **Africa** to **Eurasia**, **Australia**, and the **Americas**

Part II: WHI.2b – Characteristics of Hunter-Gatherer Societies



Hunter-Gatherer Societies in the Paleolithic Era

- Early human societies, through the development of **culture**, began the process of overcoming the limits set by the physical environment
- Hunter-gatherer societies during the **Paleolithic Era** (Old Stone Age) – 25 million to 8000 B.C.
 - Were **nomadic**, migrating in search of food, water, and shelter
 - Invented the **first tools**, including **simple weapons**
 - Learned how to make and use **fire**
 - Lived in **clans**
 - Developed **oral language**
 - Created “**cave art**”

Neanderthals

- **Neanderthals** were early people who lived during the Old Stone Age between 200,000 and 30,000 years ago
 - They wore **animal skins**
 - Buried their **dead** (suggests primitive **religious** beliefs)
 - Used **simple tools**
 - Used **fire**
 - Mysteriously disappeared about 30,000 years ago
 - In 1997, DNA tests indicated that Neanderthals are not ancestors of modern humans

Cro-Magnons

- **Cro-Magnons** were early people that appeared about 40,000 years ago
 - Skeletal structures are identical to modern humans
 - They used **spears**
 - Made **better tools** (ex. bone needles to sew clothes)
 - Were **better hunters**
 - Created **cave art**

- Role of **Women** - take care of the village/gather food
- Role of **Men** - hunt

What is culture?

- **Culture** is a people’s unique way of life. It includes a set of beliefs, knowledge, and patterns of living.

Culture		
<u>Common Practices</u>	<u>Shared Understandings</u>	<u>Social Organization</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What people eat • Clothing • Sports • Tools & Technology • Social Customs • Work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language • Symbols • Religious Beliefs • Values • The Arts • Political Beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family • Class Structure • Government • Economy • View of Authority

Part III: WHI.2c – Technological and Social Advancements & The Rise of Stable Communities



Societies of the Neolithic Era

- The beginning of **agriculture**, including **permanent settlements**, was a major step in the advance of **civilization**
- Societies during the Neolithic Era (New Stone Age) – 8000 B.C. to 3000 B.C.
 - Developed **agriculture** (domesticated plants)
 - Domesticated **animals**
 - Used **advanced tools**
 - Made **pottery**
 - Developed **weaving** skills

Neolithic Agricultural Revolution

- The shift from **hunting** and **gathering** to **farming**
 - Causes:
 - Climate changes – **rising temperatures** provided longer growing seasons and dryer land for farming
 - Small population boom – farming provided a steady source of **food**
- Domestication of animals
 - Tamed **horses, dogs, goats, and pigs**
 - Created human-made enclosures
 - Allowed farmers to keep animals as a **food** and **labor** source
- The Neolithic Revolution and domestication of animals was a gradual process and took place at different times throughout the world

Growth of Civilization – Village Life

- As farming developed, people began to settle in **permanent settlements**
- New tools made farming easier – **hoes, sickles, and plows**
- Bigger harvest caused populations to **increase**

Economic Changes

- Developed **irrigation systems** – surplus (extra) food
- Surplus food led to **specialization** of labor
- Craftspeople created new products – pottery, metal objects, woven cloth
- **Trade** developed which spread goods and ideas (**cultural diffusion**)
- Invention of the **wheel** and **sail** made trade easier

Social Changes

- **Social classes** based on wealth, power, and influence developed
- **Religion** became more organized

Development of Civilization – Growth of Cities

- Overtime small villages developed into **cities**
- Cities are **centers of trade** for a larger area

Specialized Workers

- People began to develop skills in a specific kind of work (**specialization**)
- Some city dwellers became **artisans** – skilled workers who make goods by hand

Complex Institutions

- Began to develop systems of organizing the growing number of people
 - **Government** – leaders emerge to maintain order and establish laws
 - **Religion** – became more formalized – more elaborate rituals, began building temples
 - **Economy** – developed systems of exchanging goods and services (Barter Economy)

Record Keeping

- Began to develop systems of **writing** to keep records (Pictograms)
- Eventually began to record histories (wars, natural disasters, reigns of leaders)

Improved Technology

- Created new tools to solve problems and make tasks easier
 - Farming: irrigation systems, plow, use of animals
 - Potter's wheel, plates, jugs, bowls
 - Metal Ages: used to create stronger **tools** and **weapons**
 - **Copper Age** – 6,000 years ago

- **Bronze Age: Copper + Tin = Bronze**
- **Iron Age** – about 3,200 years ago
 - Iron is stronger than copper and bronze
 - This occurs at different times around the world

Part IV: WHI.2d – Role of Archaeologists



Role of Archaeologists

- Archaeologists continue to find and interpret evidence of early humans and their lives
- **Archaeologists** study past cultures by locating and analyzing **human remains, settlements, fossils, and artifacts**
- Archaeologists apply **scientific tests**, such as **(radio) carbon dating**, to analyze fossils and artifacts
- **Stonehenge** is an example of an archaeological site in England that was begun during the Neolithic Age and completed during the Bronze Age
- **Aleppo** and **Jericho** are examples of early cities in the Fertile Crescent studied by archaeologists
- **Catalhoyuk** is an example of a Neolithic settlement currently under excavation in Anatolia