

Unit 1
Rise of Civilizations
(Prehistory to 500B.C.)

Discussion Questions

Explain how the Neolithic Revolution laid the foundation for the specialization of labor.

Ancient Civilizations

Chapter I – The Peopling of the World

Main Idea – Fossil Evidence shows that the earliest humans originated in **Africa**.

Early humans' discoveries helped them survive, grow in numbers, and spread across the globe.

1. Where did man originate?

Africa

I. Human Origins in Africa (Theme – ID - Neolithic Revolution) (pp. 7-11)

Setting the Stage

1. What were the earliest humans like?
No written record from prehistory.
Why study "prehistory"?

A. Scientists Search for Human Origins

1. **Prehistory** – the time period before people developed writing roughly 5000 years ago.
Does that mean that people before were ignorant? No...
Just that they did not have accumulated knowledge, they had to continually reinvent things!
What is history?
What role does the historian play?
To ask questions
To search for answers
Problems?
Divisions of History
When does history begin?
Time clock analogy
1 century = 1 minute
Then, Europeans settled America about 5 minutes ago!
The first civilizations began about an hour ago!
What about the previous 23 hours?
Prehistory? - 4000 B.C.
Ancient History 4000 B.C. - 500 A.D.
Classical History – 500 B.C. – 500 A.D.
Medieval History 500 A.D. - 1500 A.D.
Renaissance History – 1300 A.D. – 1600 A.D.
Modern History 1500 A.D. – Present
Why is the study of "prehistory" difficult?
Why study history?
Knowledge
Better understand today's problems
Interdependence
Skills, attitudes
Why should Americans study world history?
(Survey the class)
Our debt to others
To become aware of others' contributions to our ways of life
To learn lessons from the past
To better understand the interdependence of today's world
How do we study it?

Scientists Discover Clues

Methodology - How do we know?

Prehistory - time before people developed writing

Three types of scientists who study prehistory and hominids

1. **Archaeologists** - scientists who excavate/**dig** for artifacts and study traces of early settlements
Investigate prehistoric life by unearthing and interpreting the objects left behind by prehistoric people.
Study past societies through an analysis of what people have left behind them.
Artifacts - any objects that were shaped by human hands as well as other remains of human life
Tools
Pots