

Period 1

8,000BCE – 600BCE

**Paleolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic
Ancient River Valley Civilizations**





Key Concept 1.1 Big Geography and the Peopling of the Earth

World History considers global currents and trends. This approach is called **Big Geography**. Dispensing with most details, Big Geography uses broad historical themes to analyze history. Dates, individuals, belief systems and political forms are only considered as they explain changes and continuities in these themes. This is the approach of AP World History.

Early Human Societies

PALEOLITHIC AGE

NEOLITHIC AGE

ARCHAEOLOGY

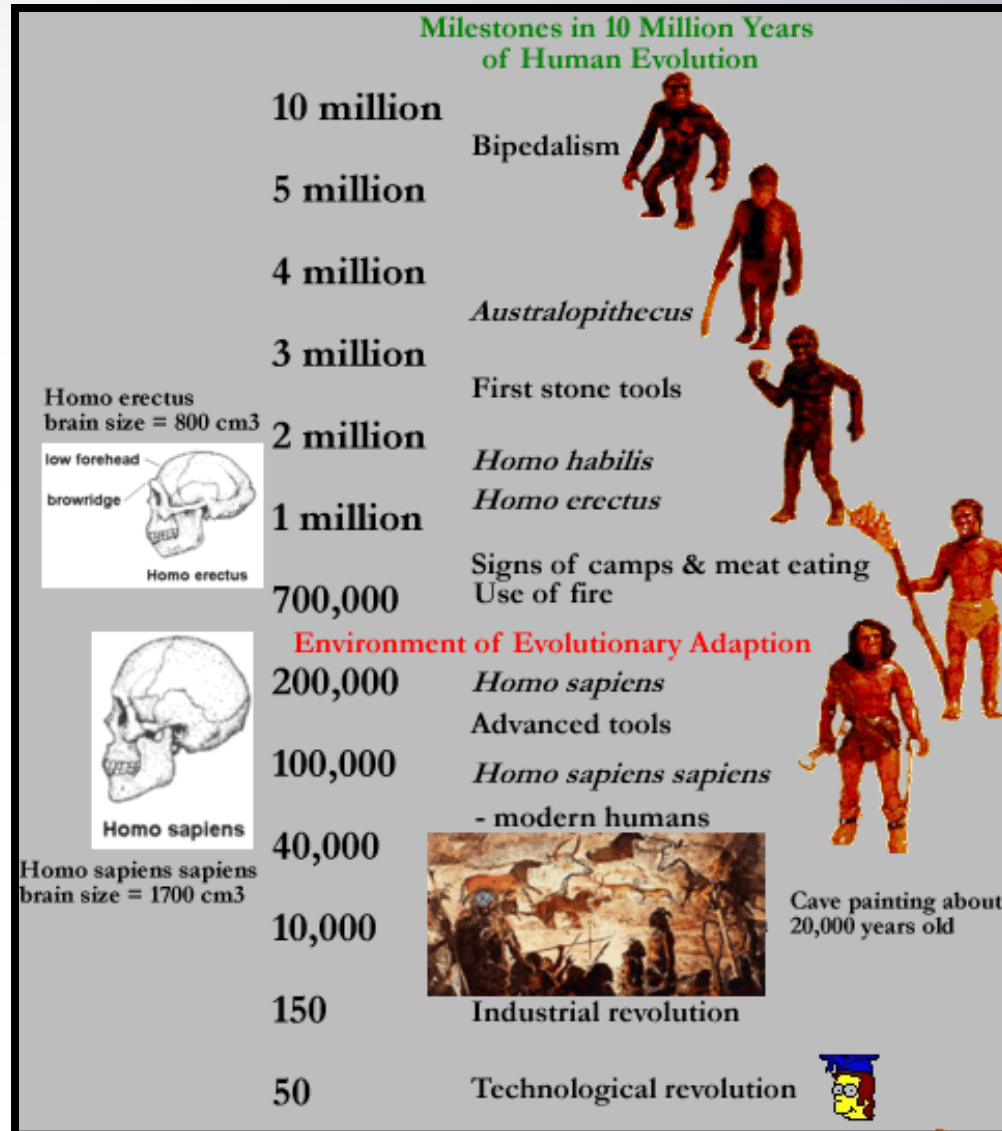
BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION



AP World History

Paleolithic Age

2 million to 8,000 BCE



Developments of Paleolithic Age



- 12,000 BCE—humans evolved physically and mentally to the level of today
 - Opposable thumbs & developed brain
- Paleolithic Achievements
 - Invention of tools & weapons
 - Language
 - Control of fire
 - Art (sculpture, jewelry, and cave paintings)
- Humans lived in small bands of hunter-gatherers

Hunter-Gatherer Societies



- Men hunt and/or fish; women gather fruits, etc.
- Follow migratory patterns of animals
- Need large portions of land to support themselves
- Life expectancy was 20 years or less
- Lived in groups of 20-30 people



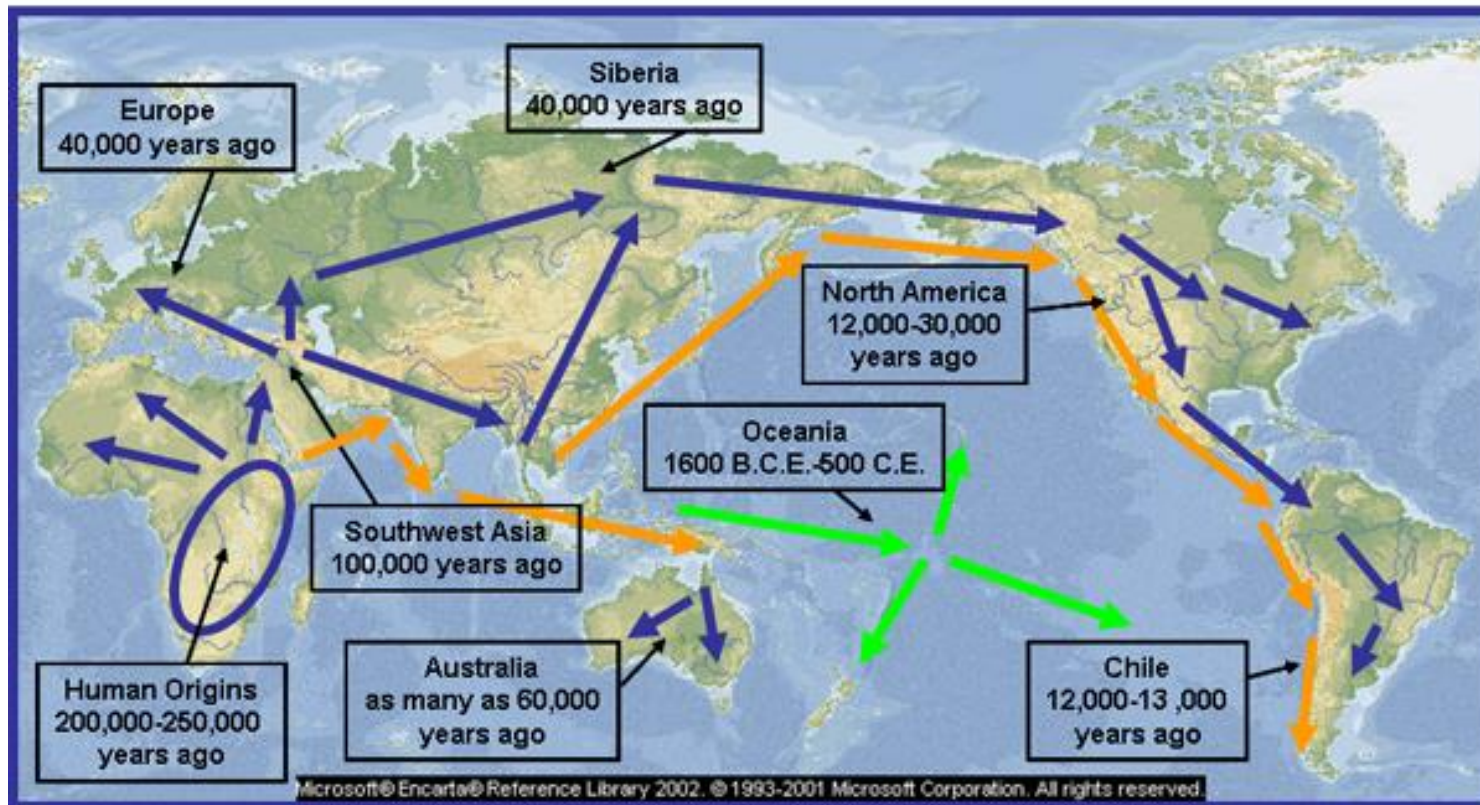
Lascaux Cave, France



Migration of Humans



Migrations of Homo sapiens



- Possible coastal routes of human migration
- Possible landward routes of human migration
- Migrations in Oceania

Neolithic Revolution

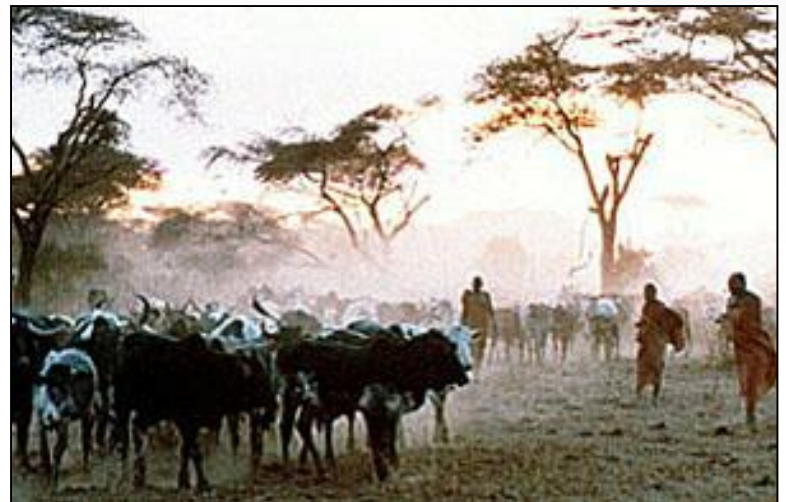


- Around 10000 BCE, two discoveries revolutionized human society
 - Farming (1st crops were wheat & barley)
 - Herding (1st domesticated animals were goats, pigs, & cattle)
- Farming & herding allowed for urban development
 - 1st cities emerged in Middle East (Turkey & Jordan)
- Domesticated animals produced a new type of society called Pastoralists

Pastoral Societies



- Nomadic peoples who herd domesticated animals
- Move in search of food for their animals
 - Traditionally more stable than hunter-gatherer societies
- Develop on marginal land apart from areas suitable for agriculture, often semi-arid regions
 - Interact with agricultural societies



Pastoral Societies

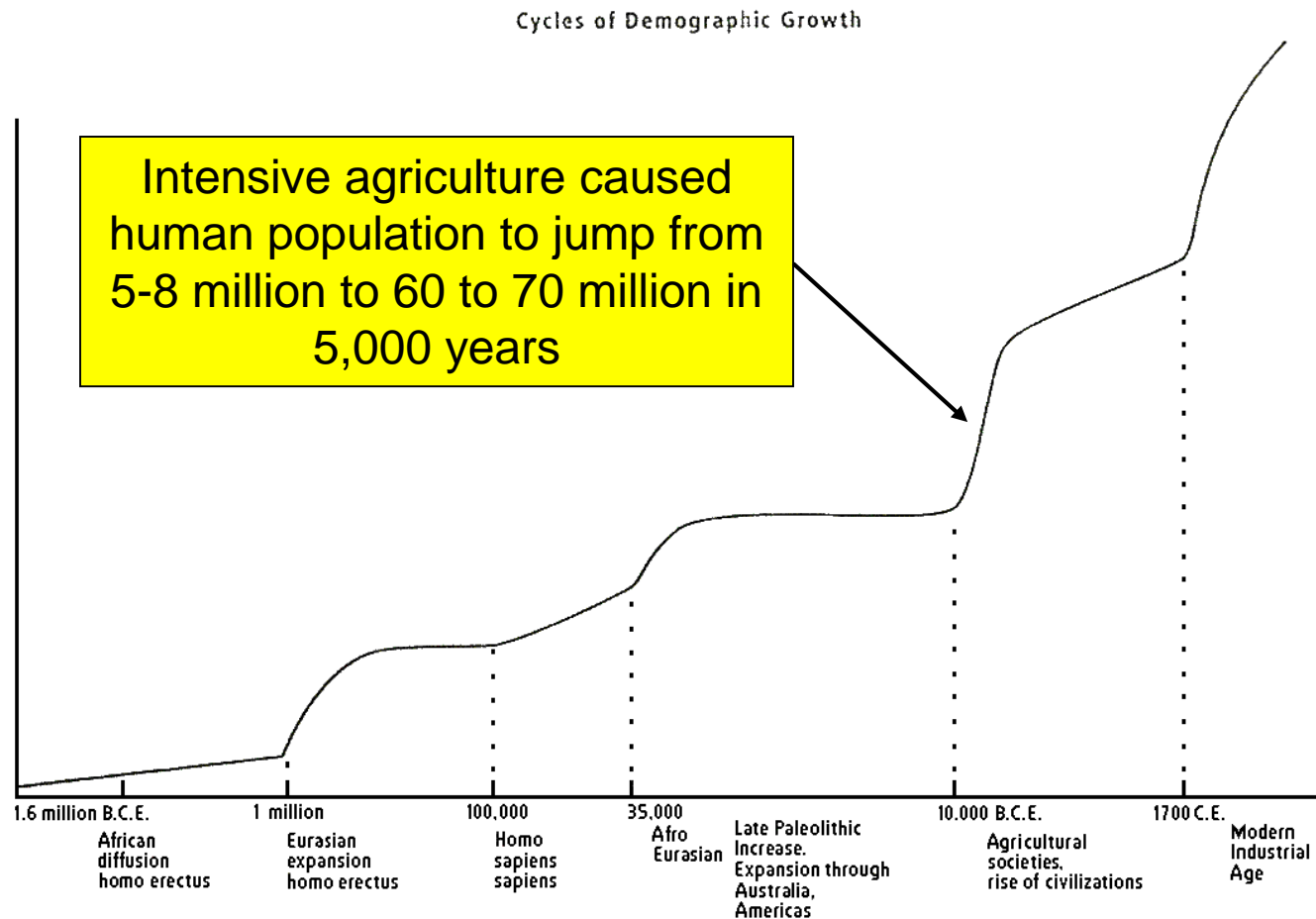


- Many pastoral nomads lived in kin-related bands numbering up to 100
- Tribal membership was defined by recognizing a common ancestry among kinship groups
- Often called Courage Cultures
 - Warlike males bound to each other by ties of personal loyalty tended to dominate these societies
 - Violence between kinship groups limited the ability of clans and tribes to cooperate

World Population Growth



• HUMAN POPULATION AND MIGRATION PATTERNS •

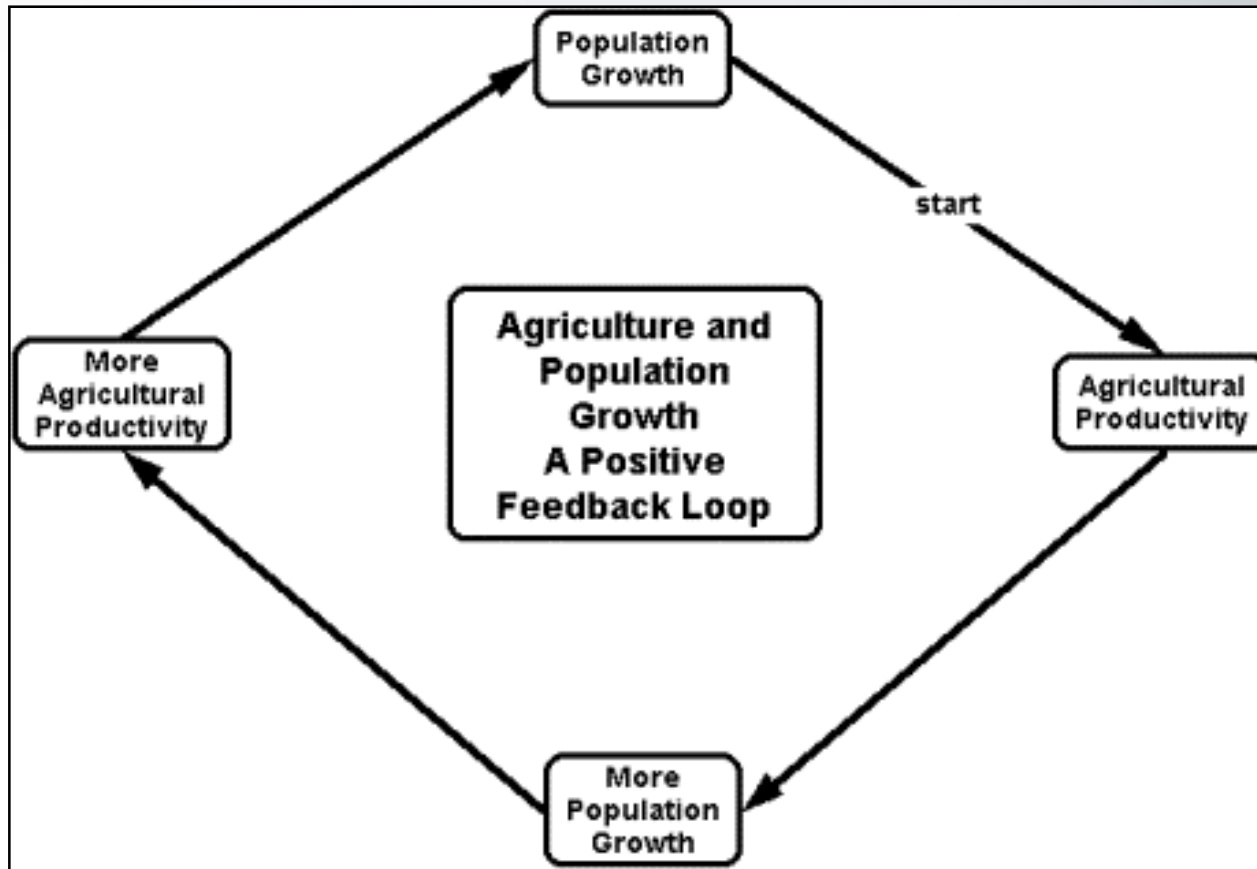


The Mesolithic Age

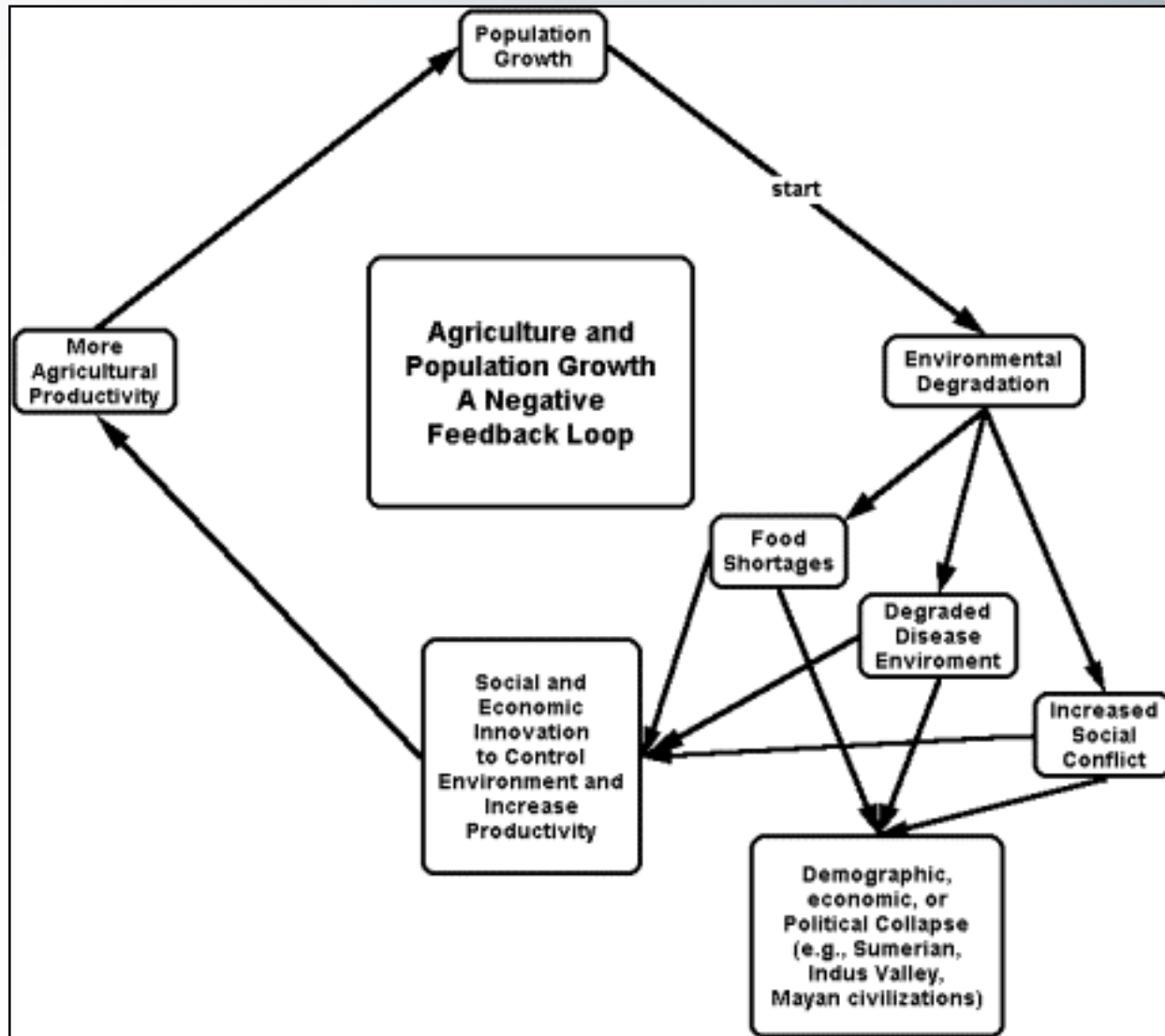


- Between the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras there was a transitional stage known as the Mesolithic age where there was a gradual shift from the old food-gathering and hunting economy to a food-producing one.
- There was also a gradual taming of animals, these changes led to a new period, the Neolithic age.

World Population Growth



Negative Effects of Population Growth



Social Transformations during Neolithic Period



- Full-time political and religious figures emerge as community leaders
- Specialized workers such as toolmakers, miners, and merchants
- Despite specialization, well-defined social stratification did not exist
- Farming & specialization of labor led to a decline in the role of women
- Farming & specialized labor led to increase in technology
 - Axes, the plow, dams, and canals

CRADLES OF CIVILIZATION



Variations on Agriculture

As agriculture spread different areas began to grow different crops that were suited to their environment.

These places where people began to settle down, grow crops, and start villages became known as the **Cradles of Civilization**.

Most of these areas were in **river valleys**. This first was **Mesopotamia** between the Tigris and Euphrates River Valleys.

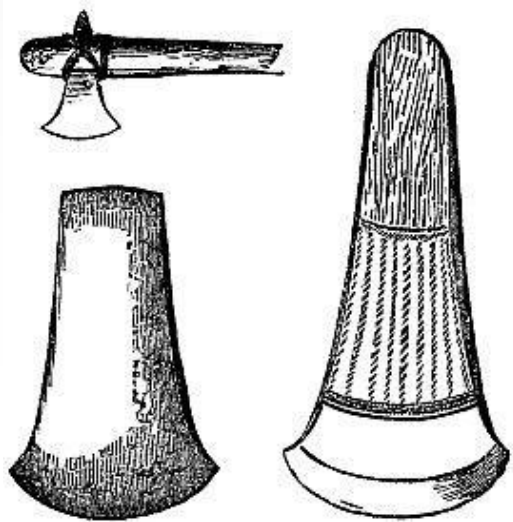
Other river valleys include The Nile in Egypt, the Indus in India, and the Huang He in China.

These villages spread throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

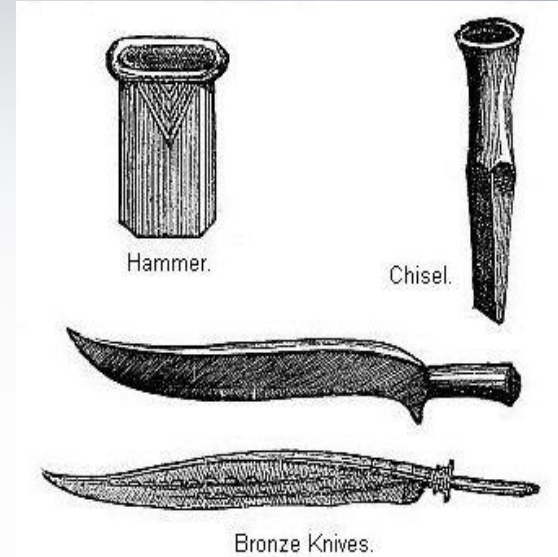
The oldest and largest of the villages are found in SW Asia.

Rise of Civilization

4th Millennium BCE



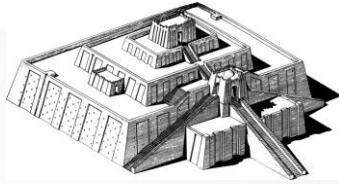
Bronze Axes—First Form.



- New discoveries transformed permanent settlements into civilizations
 - Bronze
 - Writing
- First civilization emerged in Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq) c. 3500 BCE

CIVILIZATION

An agricultural surplus led to the emergence of **civilization**, a complex culture where humans share common elements.



CIVILIZATION

Rise of cities

Growth of Government.

Usually monarchs
(King and Queens)

Emergence of Religion
Priests take an active role.

Culture
The way of life of a group of people

New Social Structure
Different social classes emerge

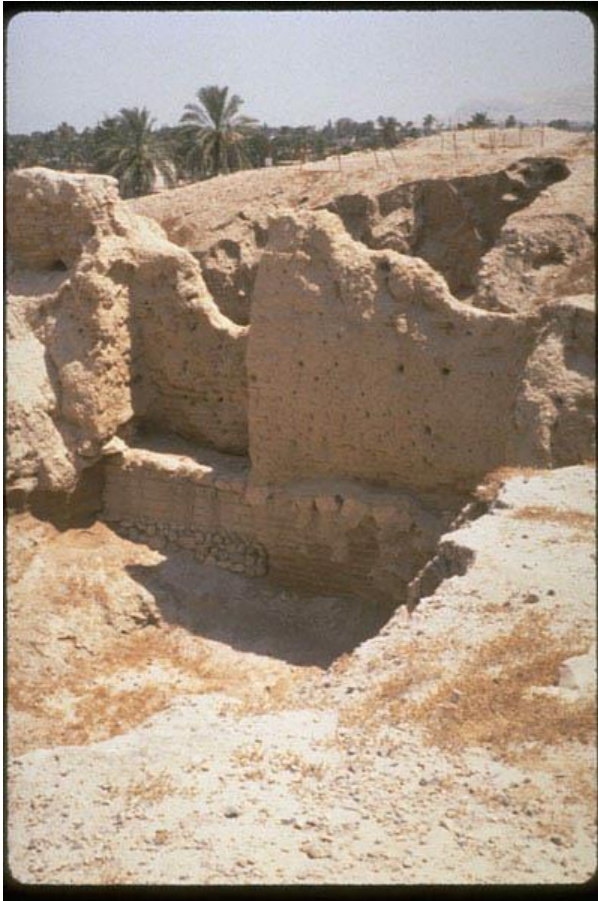
Artistic Activity
Temples, Pyramids,
Palaces, Painting, and
Sculpture

Use of Writing
First was
Cuneiform in
Sumer



JERICHO

Found in ancient Palestine near the Dead sea.
It was in existence by 8000 B.C.

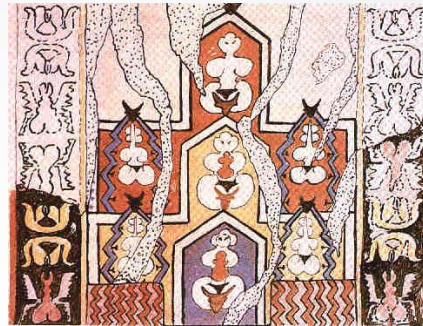


Çatal Hüyük

Found in Anatolia (Modern Day Turkey)

Its walls enclosed 32 acres and up to 6,000 people.

Grew many different crops and developed artisans and trade.



Aleppo is one of the oldest inhabited cities in history.

Located in Modern-Day Syria; It has been occupied since around 5000 BCE.

It occupies a strategic trading point midway between the sea and the Euphrates.

The main role of the city was as a trading place.



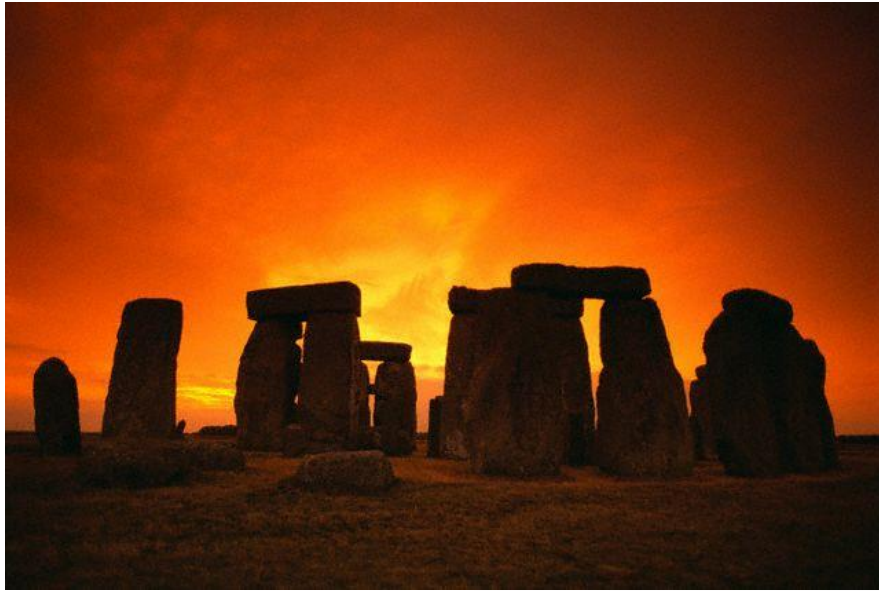
STONEHENGE

Monument begun in the Neolithic age and finished in the Bronze Age
Located on the Salisbury Plain in England



What it may have looked like at completion





CHANGING ROLES OF MEN AND WOMEN



-As villages turned into cities, men took over the work of farming. Now men were the primary providers of food and women no longer filled that role.

-Because of this the role of women changed to that of family caregiver and society became mostly male dominated (**patriarchal**) in most cultures

Copper

The first metal used by ancient man was copper. This was a natural metal And could be cast into tools.

Bronze Age

Later, copper was mixed with tin to make Bronze. Bronze was the metal of choice from about 3000-1200 BCE

Iron Age- About 1000 BCE the use of iron became common.





Agricultural Surplus

As farming technology improved people were able to grow the food they needed. Because of this not everyone had to work on providing food anymore and so people could do other things.

Artisans

People who made crafts such as textiles (fabrics), pottery, jewelry, etc. . .
People could do what they were good at instead of having to farm.

Specialization of Labor

Because people could focus on one particular thing technology and skills improved.

Storage of Food

Pottery and other devices were invented as ways to grow extra food. This extra food was vital for feeding a growing population.

Trade

As artisans made goods they began to exchange goods with other villages, and later cities, who had different goods. This was a **barter** system.

Cities



- The first civilization developed in river valleys, this allowed for large-scale farming to take place.
- As populations grew, cities were formed

Government



- The need for government emerged because there was a need to regulate many aspects of city life including the food supply and the defense of the city.
- As people had more contact with each other, conflicts also emerged, government helped to regulate these as well.
- Most early governments were monarchies.

Religion



- Religion developed originally as a way to explain natural phenomena.
- People believed that it was important for gods and goddesses to be kept happy because they had a direct impact on the lives of the people-if the deities weren't happy things would go poorly for the people.
- This gave priests special power and make them important figures.
- Also, many rulers said their power came from the gods.

Social Structure



- As economic power rose there also rose divisions between the different social classes.
- The upper class was made up of priests, government officials, and warriors.
- The lower class was made of free people, farmers, artisans, and craftspeople.
- Below these groups were the slaves, usually prisoners of war.

Writing



- Writing developed as a way to keep records.
- The first written language developed in Sumer in Mesopotamia, it became known as *Cuneiform* (wedge-shaped writing)



Art

Once people had a steady food supply there was more time for artistic activity.

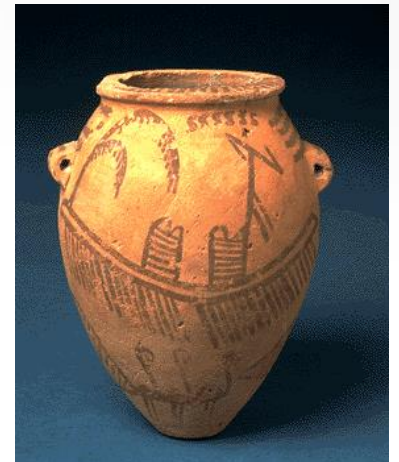
Artistic activities included:

Building Temples and Pyramids

Painting

Sculpture

Jewelry



WORLD HISTORY



- Watch
 - [History Channel video on Fire](#)
 - [History Channel video on Farming](#)
 - [Crash Course Video #1 Neolithic Revolution](#)
 - [Guns, Germs and Steel - Stone Age Crops](#)
- Take notes while watching these videos for a greater understanding of the topics we discussed in class for Period 1.