AP WORLD HISTORY
PERIOD 1: C. 8000 – 600 BCE
TECHNOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATIONS
KEY CONCEPT 1.1 BIG GEOGRAPHY & THE PEOPLING OF THE EARTH

- Big Bang (13.75 Billion Years Ago)
- Human-like creatures (2.7 Million Years Ago)
- Paleolithic Age = 95% of man’s time on earth
- Homo-sapiens evolved in East Africa (200,000 years ago)
- Migrated “out of Africa” 100,000 to 60,000 years ago; Asia 70,000; Europe 45,000; Americas 30,000-15,000
Two routes jump out as prime candidates for the human route out of Africa. A northern route would have taken our ancestors from Bering Sea to eastern sub-Saharan Africa across the Saharan desert, from there through Africa and into the Near East. An alternative northern route may have charted a path from very early on to near the Sudanese and into southern Africa across the Red Sea and into Arabia and around the Arabian peninsula. The plausibility of these two routes as gateways out of Africa has been studied as part of the UK’s National Environment Research Council’s programme “Environmental Factors in the Chronology of Human Evolution in Europe” (EFCH). During the last ice age, from about 40,000 to 10,000 years ago, sea levels dropped as the ice sheets grew, exposing large swaths of land now submerged under water and connecting regions separated by the sea. As reconstituting ancient shorelines, the EFCH team found that the Red Sea should have been much narrower than it is today and that Arabia and the Arabian peninsula may have been connected. During the past 60,000 years, North Africa has experienced abrupt variations between dry and wet conditions, and a broad desert. During the larger wet periods, huge lakes existed in both Chad and Libya, which would have provided a “flood corridor” across the Sahara. Archeologists have discovered that these lakes were present around 10,000 years ago, when there is abundant evidence for human occupation at Bir Sabata, as well as around 50,000 years ago, where we assume first human faces into the Near East. It unknown whether another flood corridor appeared between about 40,000 and 50,000 years ago, the most likely time frame for the human route. However, accumulating evidence is pointing to the southern route as the likely jumping off point.
What was life like in the Paleolithic Era?

- Small hunting-foraging bands (30-40 people)
- Egalitarian (men=women)
- Used tools made from stone and wood (spears, bows, arrows, club, axe)
- Used fire to adapt to different climates
- Family and kinship ties
- Animistic religious beliefs
- Trade of goods and technology
KEY CONCEPT 1.2 NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION AND EARLY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

- Neolithic Revolution - 8,000 BCE (10-12,000 years ago)
- Began in Middle East, but agricultural villages also emerged at different times in other areas
- Changes
  - Agriculture & domestication of animals
  - Surplus of food
  - Permanent settlements
  - Denser populations
  - Job specialization
  - Social stratification (kings, religious leaders, warriors, scribes, crafts people)
What was life like during the Neolithic Era?

• New technologies increased food production
  • irrigation, wooden plows, wheels, sickles, traps, clay pots, woven baskets

• Metallurgy (manipulating metals)
  • Bronze Age 3000 BCE (copper & tin)
  • Iron Age 1,300 BCE

• Patriarchy Develops (continuity for rest of WH)

• Human Impact on Environment (agriculture, irrigation and pastoralism overgrazing/erosion)
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

• Rise of Civilizations 3000 BCE (5000 years ago)

• Characteristics of Civilizations
  • Agricultural surplus, specialization of labor, cities, complex institutions (political bureaucracies, armies, religious hierarchies), stratified social hierarchies, long distance trade, record keeping &/or writing systems, technology and warfare
PERIOD 1 MUST KNOW CIVILIZATIONS

NEOLITHIC RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

- Tigris/Euphrates River (Mesopotamia)
- Nile River (Egypt)
- Andes (Chavin)
- Papa New Guinea
- Indus Valley (Mohenjo Dara/Harappa)
- Mesoamerica (Olmec)
- Yellow River/Huang He (Shang)

MISC. LATER SOCIETIES
- Hittites
- Babylonia

TRADE ROUTES
- Egypt to Nubia
- Mesopotamia to Indus
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

• Mesopotamia
  • Middle East – crossroads, many invasions
  • Tigris-Euphrates Rivers, unpredictable flooding
  • Not centralized, city-states
  • Sumer 1st civilization
  • Cuneiform writing system
  • Polytheistic
  • Ziggurats (religious temples)
  • Achievements: wheel, calendar
  • Babylonian Empire, King Hammurabi’s Law Code (harsh, evidence of social classes and patriarchy)
  • Epic of Gilgamesh (1st creation story)
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

• Ancient Egypt
  • Nile River, predictable flooding
  • Highly centralized, unified under pharaoh (divine rule)
  • Hieroglyphics - writing system
  • Polytheistic
  • Medicine, math, engineering
  • Contact with Nubian Empire to South
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

Indus River Valley
- Located in present day Pakistan (South Asia)
- Two major cities Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
- Not able to decode written language
- Grid-like city, standardized bricks
- Indoor plumbing, more equal society
- Decline not known – environmental factors?

Indo-European Aryan Migration – 1750 BCE
- Beginning of Hinduism
  - Vedas – core beliefs, original scriptures & teachings, sacred texts
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

- China
  - Xia – not much known about this dynasty
  - Shang – 1st documented dynasty
    - Kings – 2 classes (nobles & commoners)
    - Walled cities
    - Advanced bronze-casting methods
    - Ancestor worship
    - Oracle bones and Shaman
  - Zhou – longest dynasty
    - Mandate of Heaven
    - Confucianism & Daoism
    - Iron replaced bronze
    - Feudalism
    - Merchant class developed
    - Warring States
KEY CONCEPT 1.3 DEVELOPMENT & INTERACTIONS OF EARLY AGRICULTURAL, PASTORAL AND URBAN SOCIETIES

Bantu Dynasty 1500 BC - 500 AD

Known as the cultural hearth for sub-Saharan Africa. The Bantu migrated toward the east then the south and carried their language which is one of the roots of Swahili into all of sub-Saharan Africa. They also brought the technology and knowledge necessary to make iron into southern Africa.

- Originated in central western Africa
- Drought and over population - forced to migrate
- Bantu language is basis for Swahili African languages today all over sub-Saharan Africa
- Spread iron technology to Sub-Sahara
- Cattle is the basis for their wealth
- Semi-nomadic
- rarely build large cities
- Jenne Jenu is 1st city of any size
• Exceptions to the River Valley Rule
  • Olmecs of Mesoamerica (Central America)
  • Chavin of the Andean Region (South America)

• Don’t Forget About the Pastoralists
  • Animal herders, follow migratory patterns
  • Found in mountainous regions and/or areas with insufficient rainfall to support other settlements
  • No permanent settlement
  • Spread diseases and encourage trade
Other Notable Groups from Period 1

- Indo-Europeans from Central Asia
  - Horses, Aryans in India and Huns
- Bantus 2,000 BCE
  - Sub-Saharan migration, spread of language, farming techniques, use of iron
- Hebrews
  - Development of Monotheism, influenced development of Christianity and Islam
- Phoenicians
  - 22 letter alphabet, adopted by Greeks, influences later languages
- Hittites
  - Brought iron knowledge to Mesopotamia
MAJOR THEMES FOR PERIOD 1

• Migrations
• Neolithic Revolution
• Bronze and Iron Metallurgy
• Development of Patriarchy
• Development of Religion
• Ancient River Valley Civilizations