Chapter 1

Toward Civilization

(Prehistory–3000 B.C.)
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Section 1: Understanding Our Past

Section 2: The Dawn of History

Section 3: Beginnings of Civilization
Understanding Our Past

• How are geography and history linked?

• How do anthropologists and archaeologists find out about early peoples?

• How do historians try to reconstruct the past?
By showing how people lived in different times and places, geographers have added to our knowledge of human history.

- **Geography** is the study of people, their environments, and the resources available to them.

- History uses written evidence to tell us how people lived in the past.
The Five Themes of Geography

Place

Movement

Region

Location

Human-environment interaction

The Human Story
Classwork

How would you describe Tucson using the five themes of geography? Write at least two sentences per theme.
Anthropologists & Archaeologists

**Anthropology** is the study of the origins and development of people and their societies.

**Archaeology** is a specialized branch of anthropology.
- They study past people and cultures

Archaeologists study **artifacts**, objects made by human beings.
- By looking at artifacts they can see how people developed **technology**, the skills and tools people use to meet their basic needs.
How Do Historians Reconstruct the Past?

- **Historians** rely primarily on written evidence to determine how people lived in the past.

- Recorded history began about 5,000 years ago, when people began to keep written records.

- Historians are like detectives.
  - Sometimes they come to different conclusions.
Section 1 Assessment

Which of the following is not an example of an artifact?

a) clothing  
b) weapons  
c) rivers  
d) tools

What do historians look at to learn how people lived in the past?

a) They focus on the environments in which early people lived.  
b) They primarily look at written records.  
c) They primarily dig for artifacts.  
d) They primarily look at landforms.
Section 1 Assessment
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The Dawn of History

- What advances did people make during the Old Stone Age?

- How can we learn about the religious beliefs of early people?

- Why was the Neolithic agricultural revolution a turning point in history?
Prehistory

- The time period before writing was invented is known as Prehistory.

- History is the time period after writing was invented.

- Prehistory is also known as the Stone Age.
  - The Stone Age has two parts:
    - Old Stone Age or Paleolithic
    - New Stone Age or Neolithic
The Dawn of History

During the Old Stone Age or Paleolithic era, people lived as nomads, in small hunting and food gathering groups. These people

- made simple tools and weapons out of stone, bone, or wood;
- developed a spoken language;
  - How did this change life?
- invented clothing;
- used caves and rocky overhangs for shelter;
- learned to build fires
  - for warmth, cooking, light, and ceremonies.
Early people left evidence of their belief in a spiritual world.

Stone statues are believed to have had religious meaning. Statues of pregnant women suggest that early people worshiped earth-mother goddesses.

Animism is the belief that the world is full of spirits and forces that might reside in animals, objects, or dreams. Cave paintings may have been part of animist religious rituals.

Early people began burying their dead with care, suggesting a belief in life after death. They provided the dead with tools and weapons for the afterlife.
The Neolithic Agricultural Revolution was the change from nomadic to farming life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEOPLE BEFORE</th>
<th>PEOPLE AFTER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relied on hunting and gathering.</td>
<td>Learned to farm and were able to produce their own food.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nomads</strong> lived in small hunting and food-gathering groups.</td>
<td>Settled into permanent villages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waited for migrating animals to return each year.</td>
<td>Learned to domesticate, or tame, animals. This provided a dependable source of meat.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This led to the development of civilization.
Neolithic

- In the Neolithic era or New Stone Age people built civilizations near rivers.
  - Why?
  - Advantages?
  - Disadvantages?
Which of the following suggests that early people held religious beliefs?

a) They buried their dead with tools, weapons, and other items needed in the afterlife.
b) They learned to produce their own food.
c) They developed a spoken language.
d) They lived in caves or under rocky overhangs.

Which was an advance of the Neolithic Agricultural Revolution?

a) Early people learned to gather nuts and berries.
b) Early people learned to hunt.
c) Early people learned to produce their own food.
d) Early people became nomads.
Beginnings of Civilization

- How did the first cities emerge?
- What are the basic features of civilizations?
- How do cultures spread and change?
Farmers began cultivating lands along river valleys and producing **surplus**, or extra, food.

Surpluses helped populations expand.

As populations grew, some villages swelled into cities.
What Are the Basic Features of Civilizations?

A civilization is a complex, highly organized social order. Historians distinguish eight basic features found in most early civilizations:

1. Cities

2. Well-organized central governments

3. Complex religions—Most were polytheistic, they believed in many gods.

4. Job specialization

5. Social classes

6. Arts and architecture

7. Public works

8. Writing-developed pictograms
**Civilizations Spread and Change**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilizations spread when ancient rulers gained more power and conquered territories beyond the boundaries of their cities.</th>
<th><strong>Civilizations change</strong> when the physical environment changes.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Powerful rulers created <strong>city-states</strong> and <strong>empires</strong>.</td>
<td>Example: A tremendous volcano may have wiped out Minoan civilization.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A city-state</strong> included a city and its surrounding lands and villages.</td>
<td>Interactions among people also cause cultures to change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An empire</strong> is a group of states or territories controlled by one ruler.</td>
<td><strong>Cultural diffusion</strong> is the spread of ideas, customs, and technologies from one people to another. Cultural diffusion occurred through migration, trade, and warfare.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Which of the following is not a feature of early civilizations?

a) cities  
b) well-organized central government  
c) cultural diffusion  
d) public works

Cultural diffusion occurs through

a) hunting and gathering.  
b) migration, civilization, and warfare.  
c) migration, trade, and warfare.  
d) religion, trade, and warfare.