

Chapter 1 Vocabulary

The Peopling of the World

1. Artifacts: human made objects, such as tools and jewelry.
2. Culture: a people's unique way of life
3. Hominids: humans and other creatures that walk upright
4. Paleolithic Age: a prehistoric period that lasted from about 2,500,000 to 8000 B.C., during which people made use of crude stone tools and weapons – also called the Old Stone Age.
5. Neolithic Age: a prehistoric period that began about 8000 B.C. and in some areas ended as early as 3000 B.C., during which people learned to polish stone tools, make pottery, grow crops, and raise animals – also called the New Stone Age.
6. Technology: ways of applying knowledge, tools, and inventions to meet their needs.
7. Homo Sapiens: the biological species to which modern human beings belong.
8. Nomads: highly mobile people who moved from place to place foraging, or searching, for new sources of food.
9. Hunter-Gatherers: nomadic groups whose food supply depends on hunting animals and collecting plant foods
10. Neolithic Revolution: an agricultural revolution that changed human life resulting from the beginnings of farming.
11. Slash and Burn Farming: a farming method in which people clear fields by cutting and burning trees and grasses, the ashes of which serve to fertilize the soil.
12. Domestication: taming of animals
13. Civilization: a complex culture with five characteristics – advanced cities; specialized workers; complex institutions; record keeping; advanced technology
14. Specialization: development of skills in a specific kind of work
15. Artisans: skilled workers who made goods by hand
16. Institution: a long lasting pattern of organization in a community
17. Scribes: professional record keepers
18. Cuneiform: meaning 'wedge-shaped', symbols of the objects or what they represented
19. Bronze Age: refers to the time when people began using bronze, rather than copper and stone, to fashion tools and weapons.
20. Barter: way of trading goods and services without money
21. Ziggurat: a tiered, pyramid shaped structure that formed part of a Sumerian temple.