

World History

1-2 Notes

The Dawn of History

- Historians call the earliest period of human history the **Old Stone Age**
 - This long period dates from about 2 million B.C. to 10,000 B.C.
- African Beginnings > Anthropologists have found startling evidence of early human life in East Africa.
- Because of such evidence, many scientists think that the early people lived in East Africa and later migrated north and east into Europe and Asia.
- In time, people reached the Americas, Australia, and the islands of the Pacific.
- Hunting and food Gathers > Old Stone Age people lived in small hunting and food gathering band that range to 20 or 30 people.
- Men hunted and fished while the women and children gathered berries, fruit, nuts and grains.
- Old Stone Age people were nomads, moving from place to place as they followed game animals and ripening fruit.
- People depended wholly on their environment for survival.
- Old Stone Age people made simple tools and weapons out of the materials at hand- stone, bone, or wood.
- Because of the cold temperature during winter Old Stone Age people would make their clothings out of fur from animals.

Early Religious Beliefs

- 30,000 years ago people began to leave evidence of their belief in a spiritual world.
- They felt that their beliefs resided in animals, objects or dreams- this is known as animism.
- In France, Spain and northern Africa archaeologists have found cave paintings, stone statues that probably had religious meanings.

The Neolithic Agricultural Revolution

- About 11,000 years ago nomadic bands made a breakthrough, they learned how to farm.
- By producing their own food, they could remain in one place.
- The First Farmer > Women were the first to notice that if you spread seeds on the ground that new plants would grow the next year.
- People learned to domesticate, or tame, some of the animals they had once hunted.

Changing Ways of Life

- The Neolithic agricultural revolution enabled people to become food producers for the first time.
- This led to growth in population.

New Technology

- To plant the right amount of seed and to measure time accurately, they created the first calendar.
- Farmer learned to use oxens or water buffalos to plow the fields.

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