

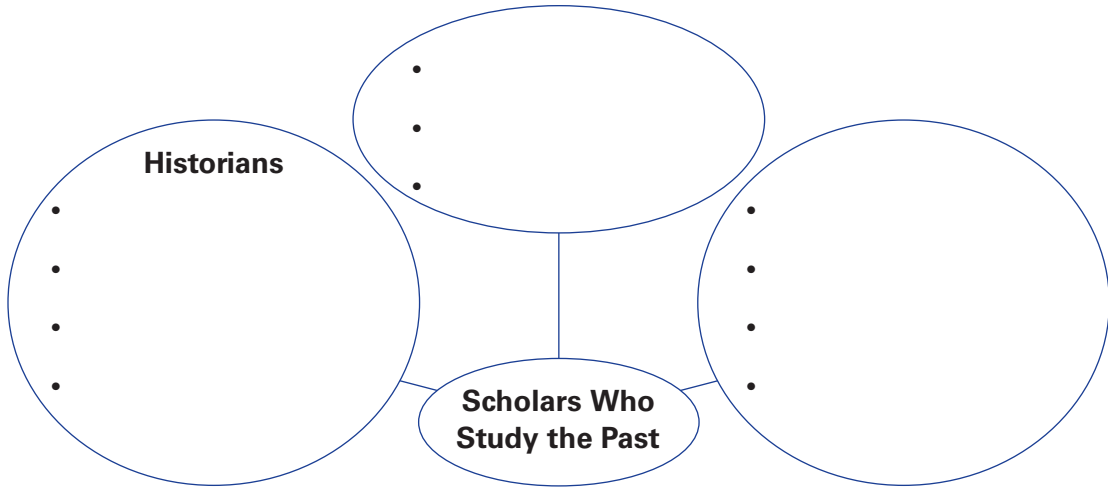
CHAPTER
1
SECTION 1

Note Taking Study Guide

UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST

Focus Question: What have scholars learned about the ancestors of humans, and how have they done so?

A. As you read "Studying the Historical Past" and "Investigating Prehistory," complete the following graphic organizer, identifying the types of scholars who study the past. Then summarize what each type does.



B. As you read "Discoveries in Africa and Beyond," complete this table by identifying different hominid groups and summarizing what scholars have learned about each group.

Hominids	
Group	Summary
<i>Australopithecines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • •

CHAPTER

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SECTION 1

Section Summary

UNDERSTANDING OUR PAST

READING CHECK

What is anthropology?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *technique* mean in the first underlined sentence? Look for the word *technology* in the second underlined sentence. Notice that these two words have a common root. Use these related words to help learn what *technique* means.

READING SKILL

Summarize In your own words, summarize the important discoveries made by anthropologists Mary and Louis Leakey at Olduvai Gorge.

The long period before the invention of writing is called **prehistory**. Then about 5,000 years ago, humans invented writing and recorded history began.

Historians learn details of the past from **artifacts**, such as clothing, coins, and artwork. However, most rely on written evidence, such as letters or tax records. Historians must also evaluate evidence to determine if it is reliable. Then they interpret it to explain why an event, such as a war, happened. Historians help us understand what happens today and what may happen in the future.

Anthropology is the study of the development of people and their societies. Some anthropologists study human bones to understand how physical traits have changed. Others study **cultures** from the past and present. **Archaeology**, a specialized branch of anthropology, is the study of past cultures through material remains, including buildings and artifacts. In the past, archaeologists might just choose a likely site and start digging to try to find ancient artifacts. Today they work with experts in many fields, such as geology and biology. They also use modern innovations, such as computers and aerial photography. A technique for measuring radioactivity helps these scholars determine the age of objects.

Before the 1950s, anthropologists knew little about early humans and their ancestors. Anthropologists **Mary** and **Louis Leakey** searched for clues in East Africa at **Olduvai Gorge**. There they found many ancient stone tools. The tools showed that whoever had made them had developed the skills and tools, or **technology**, to survive. Early human relatives, or hominids, must have made them. Then, in 1959, after two decades of searching, Mary Leakey found the skull of an early hominid. In 1974, anthropologist **Donald Johanson** found pieces of a hominid skeleton in Ethiopia. “Lucy” was at least 3 million years old. Discoveries like these helped establish that a number of different groups of hominids, such as *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*, lived over the course of several million years. Two groups of *Homo sapiens* arose. One group—the Neanderthals—disappeared between 50,000 and 30,000 years ago. Early modern humans were then the only hominids on Earth.

Review Questions

1. What evidence do historians study to learn about the past?

2. What have stone tools taught anthropologists about early humans?

CHAPTER
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SECTION 2

Note Taking Study Guide

TURNING POINT: THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

Focus Question: How was the introduction of agriculture a turning point in prehistory?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to summarize the eras of prehistory before and after the introduction of agriculture.

Eras of Prehistory	
Life Before Farming	Life After Farming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____ • _____ _____

CHAPTER

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SECTION 2

Section Summary

TURNING POINT: THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

READING CHECK

Into what two eras do scholars divide prehistory?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *transition* mean in the underlined sentence? What clues can you find in the surrounding words, phrases, or sentences? Circle the word below that is a synonym for *transition*.

1. remain
2. change

READING SKILL

Summarize In your own words, summarize how the Neolithic Revolution changed the way people lived.

Scholars have divided prehistory into eras called the **Old Stone Age**, or **Paleolithic Period**, and the **New Stone Age**, or **Neolithic Period**. During both, people made stone tools. However, during the New Stone Age, people began to develop new skills and technologies that led to dramatic changes.

Early modern humans lived toward the end of the Paleolithic Period. They were **nomads** who moved around in small groups, hunting and gathering food. These people made simple tools and weapons, built fires for cooking, and used animal skins for clothing. They also developed spoken language, which helped them cooperate during the hunt. Some people also began to bury their dead. This suggests belief in a spiritual world or life after death. Cave paintings around the world depict animals and humans. Many scholars think that our ancestors believed the world was full of spirits and forces that might reside in animals, objects, or dreams. Such beliefs are known as **animism**.

The New Stone Age began about 12,000 years ago (or about 10,000 B.C.), when nomadic people made a great breakthrough—they learned to farm. By producing their own food, people no longer needed to roam in search of it. As a result, early farmers settled the first permanent villages. This transition from nomadic life to settled farming brought about such dramatic changes in way of life that it is often called the **Neolithic Revolution**. No greater change in human history took place until the Industrial Revolution of the late 1700s. These early farmers were the first to **domesticate** plants and animals.

Archaeologists have unearthed the remains of some early Neolithic villages, including **Çatalhöyük** in modern-day Turkey, and **Jericho**, which exists today in the West Bank. In these settled communities, people accumulated personal property. A council of male elders or elite warriors made the important decisions for all the villagers. To farm successfully, people developed new technologies, such as ways to protect their crops, calendars, and the use of animals for plowing. However, not all technologies were invented everywhere at the same time.

Review Questions

1. What religious beliefs did early modern humans develop during the Old Stone Age?

2. What led to the establishment of the first permanent villages?

CHAPTER

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SECTION 3

Note Taking Study Guide

BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

Focus Question: How did the world’s first civilizations arise and develop?

As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart with details from the text to summarize the different phases of the development of civilization.

The Development of Civilization	Changes Over Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____
	Features of Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____
	Rise of Cities and Civilizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • _____ • _____ • _____ • _____

CHAPTER
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SECTION 3

Section Summary

BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION

READING CHECK

What is significant about the rise of cities?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *complex* mean in the underlined sentence? Notice the signal word *more* appears before *complex*. In what way do you think writing changed? Use the signal word to help you learn what *complex* means in the sentence.

READING SKILL

Summarize Explain what caused cultural diffusion.

The earliest civilizations developed near major rivers. Rivers provided water, transportation, and food. Floodwaters made the soil fertile. In such rich conditions, farmers produced **surpluses**, which allowed them to store food and feed growing populations. As populations grew, villages expanded into cities. Away from these cities, people lived in farming villages or as nomadic herders on grasslands, or **steppes**. Unlike these **traditional economies**, however, in the new cities some people had jobs other than farming.

The rise of cities is the main feature of **civilization**. In addition to this, historians distinguish other basic features of most early civilizations. They include organized governments, complex religions, job specialization, social classes, arts and architecture, public works, and writing.

In these early civilizations, central governments led by chiefs or elders coordinated large-scale projects such as farming or public works, established laws, and organized defense. Most people were **polytheistic**, believing in many gods. Usually, the gods were associated with natural forces such as the sun or rivers. Also, for the first time, individuals began to specialize in certain jobs. Some became **artisans**. In many civilizations, people's jobs determined their social rank. Priests and nobles usually occupied the top level. Wealthy merchants and artisans were next. Most people were peasants and held the lowest social rank. Art and architecture developed, reflecting the beliefs and values of the civilization. Skilled workers built large, ornate palaces and temples decorated with paintings and statues. Many civilizations also developed writing from **pictographs**. As writing grew more complex, only specially trained people called **scribes** could read and write.

Over time, early civilizations changed. Famine, drought, or other disasters sometimes led people to migrate. Migration, as well as trade and warfare, led to **cultural diffusion**. Trade introduced people to new goods or better methods of making them. In warfare, victorious armies forced their ways of life on conquered peoples while they incorporated aspects of the new cultures into their own. Rulers acquired more territory. This brought about the development of **city-states** and, later, the rise of the first **empires**.

Review Questions

1. Why did early civilizations develop near major rivers?

2. What roles did central governments have in early civilizations?
