

Name

Class

Date

: \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ e: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Chapter 1 Essay**

1. How did early *Homo erectus* spread out of East Africa into other parts of the world? Where did they go, and how early did they reach those places?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* *Homo erectus* migrated out of East Africa into central Africa and then into northern Africa. This migration took place 2 million years ago. As early as 1.8 million years ago, *Homo erectus* had spread to Asia, reaching China and Java by 1.5 million years ago. These migrations took place over large landmasses, as well as along coastline routes. Because sea levels were lower then, individuals could cross from the mainland of China to Java on foot. *Homo erectus* also spawned lineages that moved northward from Africa into Europe by 700,000 years ago. In each of these places, they adapted hunting and gathering techniques to the local environment.

2. What were the key features of Paleolithic food attainment and Paleolithic diets?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* The Paleolithic diet consisted of a combination of plants and animal protein. Paleolithic peoples foraged for their food, engaging in hunting, scavenging, and gathering. Most of what they ate were plants. Animal protein often came from scavenged foods like insects and shellfish rather than being hunted directly. It is unknown whether labor was divided between genders, but in today's foraging societies, there is some division, with men hunting large animals and women responsible for gathering plants and small animals. It took between ten and twenty hours per week to gather food, but this number varied depending on environmental factors and group decisions. Because Paleolithic peoples had to forage for their diet, they expended energy and, in general, avoided diseases common in contemporary societies, such as heart disease or diabetes. Life spans were kept in check by accidents, injuries, and infections.

3. What are some of the theories about gender relationships in Paleolithic societies? What changed in those relationships in the Neolithic period? What kinds of evidence are used in supporting or arguing against these theories?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* Studies of more recent foraging societies suggest that women were valued for their labor, which was recognized as equal to the work of men. Both men and women foraged for food, and both participated in hunting. Other scholars theorize that even in Paleolithic society one person may have emerged as a leader, perhaps based on personal skill, and that this person was almost always a man. It is more certain that by the Neolithic period, after the invention of plow agriculture, society became more hierarchical and men took on more of a public, elite status. Women were limited to the home or enclosed spaces, and land inheritance favored men over women. Evidence for gender roles in the Neolithic period comes from later written traditions.

4. What is the relationship between pastoralism, disease, and humans?

**ANSWER:** *Answer would ideally include the following.* Pastoralism is the herding and raising of livestock. It requires humans to live in close contact with their herd animals, thus exposing them to various animal-borne diseases. Initially, exposure to diseases may have caused higher mortality rates in pastoralist societies, but over time, humans would have developed some resistance to them. Foragers were not exposed to these diseases and thus did not develop any resistance to them. When a pastoralist society encountered a forager society, the former might have exposed the latter to deadly pathogens.

5. How did material goods create, define, and perpetuate social hierarchies in Neolithic societies?

Name

:

Class

:

Date

e:

## **Chapter 1 Essay**

*ANSWER:* *Answer would ideally include the following.* The possession of material goods—such as livestock, dwelling structures, plows, carts, and pots—indicated that some individuals had control over the labor of others. Control over labor provided one with more material goods, and vice versa. Those who had control over labor were also granted a higher status in society and so could gain even more possessions. Material goods, along with land, could also constitute an inheritance and thus perpetuate status into the next generation.