

Chapter 1 - The Earliest Human Societies

Multiple Choice

1. Before the beginning of the historical period, humans had accomplished all of the following EXCEPT
- a. created art forms.
 - b. mastered agriculture.
 - c. developed religions.
 - d. made tools.
 - e. developed written language.

ANSWER: e

2. Based on current evidence, where did Homo sapiens originate?
- a. Asia
 - b. Europe
 - c. North America
 - d. East Africa
 - e. Antarctica

ANSWER: d

3. Which of the following specialists is essential to understanding ancient writing?
- a. paleoanthropologists
 - b. paleoenvironmentalists
 - c. paleographers
 - d. linguists
 - e. geneticists

ANSWER: c

4. During what time period did humans develop the first true language?
- a. Holocene Era
 - b. Paleolithic Age
 - c. Neolithic Age
 - d. Bronze Age
 - e. Iron Age

ANSWER: b

5. Which of the following marks the beginning of the Paleolithic Age?
- a. cave art
 - b. stone tools
 - c. Homo sapiens
 - d. livestock breeding
 - e. iron production

ANSWER: b

6. In which of the following ways was Paleolithic society different from today?

- a. urban development
- b. complex developed cultures
- c. particular metals and tools
- d. the family unit was larger
- e. changes in the global climate

ANSWER: d

7. What was the most crucial factor in the success of the Paleolithic family?

- a. the bravery of a few individuals
- b. relations with outside groups
- c. skill in hunting and childbearing
- d. skill in warfare
- e. skill in farming

ANSWER: b

8. How many people would usually be found in Paleolithic hunting and gathering groups?

- a. 60
- b. 25
- c. 100
- d. 40
- e. 5

ANSWER: d

9. Which of the following problems did NOT cause conflict with hunter and gatherer groups?

- a. theft
- b. water scarcity
- c. territorial claims
- d. specialization of labor
- e. famine

ANSWER: d

10. Which of the following changed in humans during the Paleolithic Age?

- a. mental capacity
- b. family size
- c. art
- d. hunting tools
- e. irrigation techniques

ANSWER: a

11. What might be a reason for past forms of humans to die out?

- a. a lack of emphasis on fertility in the culture
- b. an inability to adapt to environmental changes
- c. a diminished ability to reason over time

- d. natural disasters
- e. almost no hierarchy in societal development

ANSWER: b

12. All of the changes listed below would be associated with physical changes in hominids during the Paleolithic Age EXCEPT

- a. sharper eyesight.
- b. shorter arms.
- c. larger hips.
- d. larger skulls.
- e. sharper sense of smell.

ANSWER: e

13. During the Paleolithic Age, the change in the physical environment and the changes in human development gave humans the ability to do which of the following?

- a. create irrigation devices
- b. codify laws
- c. breed livestock
- d. smelt iron
- e. use semi-permanent shelters

ANSWER: e

14. Which of the following would be associated with the Neolithic Age?

- a. hunting mammoth and gathering grasses
- b. living in caves and painting horses
- c. primarily scavenging for food
- d. choosing livestock specifically for breeding
- e. devising new tools for a specific task

ANSWER: d

15. As the Paleolithic Age came to an end, what happened to the tendency for humans to move from place to place in a nomadic lifestyle?

- a. It strengthened.
- b. It weakened.
- c. It disappeared altogether.
- d. It replaced all other lifestyles.
- e. It took place seasonally.

ANSWER: b

16. What does the intentional use of fire indicate?

- a. a manipulation of the environment
- b. a change in the food that was eaten
- c. a reliance on agriculture
- d. a social organization
- e. a change in global climate

ANSWER: a

17. Which of the following was true of the Neolithic Revolution?

- a. The development of agriculture usually occurred over a 50 to 100 year period.
- b. Agriculture first emerged in the Near East and then gradually spread into Asia and Africa.
- c. Food production developed independently in at least seven separate areas at about the same time.
- d. People began to use agricultural practices in northern China much earlier than in West Africa.
- e. Every society of people in the world had now experienced a true food-production lifeway.

ANSWER: c

18. Which of the following is NOT considered a new development of the Neolithic Age?

- a. privately owned property
- b. specialization of labor
- c. enlarged public roles for women
- d. the family unit
- e. settlement of people in permanent locations

ANSWER: d

19. Which of the following was necessary for Neolithic populations to grow?

- a. more women than men
- b. domesticated draft animals
- c. intensive dependable food production
- d. use of fire and stone tools
- e. domesticated draft animals and use of fire and stone tools

ANSWER: c

20. What aspect about women explains the Neolithic emphasis on women in religion?

- a. their ability to have children
- b. their physical appeal
- c. their stronger body
- d. their larger brains
- e. their perceived moral superiority

ANSWER: a

21. Which of the following artifacts is considered to be the earliest human artwork?

- a. rock and cave paintings
- b. clay pots
- c. bronze art forms
- d. law scrolls
- e. Çatal Hüyük

ANSWER: a

22. Which of the following groups would NOT have been a member of an agrarian society?

- a. religious leaders
- b. merchants
- c. artisans
- d. slaves
- e. ruling elites

ANSWER: d

23. Which animal was among the last domesticated?

- a. horse
- b. pig
- c. dog
- d. sheep
- e. goat

ANSWER: a

24. Which of the following was NOT a characteristic of Neolithic religions?

- a. natural phenomena that they could not control
- b. participation in rituals and sacrifices
- c. spiritual leaders to communicate with supernatural forces
- d. only males could communicate with the gods
- e. gods and spirits could assume human and animal forms

ANSWER: d

25. Which metal is referred to as the key metal of history?

- a. copper
- b. bronze
- c. gold
- d. silver
- e. iron

ANSWER: e

26. Agrarian civilizations had social values that emphasized

- a. family and kin.
- b. profit and production.
- c. hunting and warfare.
- d. sacrifice and rituals.
- e. family, kin, hunting, and warfare.

ANSWER: a

27. When considering the many needs of advancing civilizations, which of the following geographical features would most likely help an early society develop?

- a. mountains
- b. deserts
- c. rivers
- d. forests
- e. oceans

ANSWER: c

28. What was a disadvantage of bronze when compared to iron?

- a. It was extremely hard to use.
- b. It was not resistant to weathering.
- c. It was too easy to make.
- d. It was very light-weight.
- e. It was difficult to obtain.

ANSWER: e

29. The use of iron had all of the following effects EXCEPT

- a. changing warfare.
- b. bringing new areas of land into cultivation.
- c. creating more durable tools.
- d. creating art forms.
- e. providing a cheaper alternative material.

ANSWER: d

30. Rivers were a prominent geographical feature in the early development of civilizations, and these rivers tended to have very different characteristics. Which of the following civilizations had a river that was usually peaceful and predictable?

- a. Egypt
- b. Central America
- c. Mesopotamia
- d. China
- e. Southwestern Steppes

ANSWER: a

Completion

31. The study of past cultures and civilizations through an examination of their artifacts, or anything made by humans, is known as _____.

ANSWER: archaeology

32. A good definition of history is _____.

ANSWER: a systematic record of human activity

33. The basic social unit during the Paleolithic Age was the _____.

ANSWER: family

34. The physical change with the most significant impact on humans during the Paleolithic was their _____.

ANSWER: enlarged skulls

35. Significant changes in human societies, such as expanding populations, permanent settlements, private property and systematized regulation for the protection of private rights, as well as specialization of labor, came about during the _____.

ANSWER: Neolithic (food-producing) Revolution

36. _____ is the ability that is the primary indicator of the development of human beings.

ANSWER: Toolmaking

37. It is thought that women played a significant role in Neolithic societies based on farming; those societies developed into a _____, or a society characterized by female social and political dominance.

ANSWER: matriarchy

38. _____ lived a nomadic lifestyle that required frequent raiding and skills in mounted warfare to survive.

ANSWER: Pastoralists

39. Agrarian civilizations believed time to be _____.

ANSWER: cyclic

40. The first metal used by humans appears to have been copper, then bronze came into widespread use, but _____ is the key metal of history because it was more common, cheaper, lasted longer, and held an edge better than previous metals.

ANSWER: iron

Objective Short Answer

41. Term for identification: Bronze Age

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

42. Term for identification: Primary sources

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

43. Term for identification: Linguistic history

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

Subjective Short Answer

44. Term for identification: Natural selection

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

45. Term for identification: Historiography

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

46. Term for identification: Hominid

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

47. Term for identification: Agrarian civilization

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

48. Term for identification: Pastoral civilization

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

49. Term for identification: Homo sapiens

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

50. Term for identification: Holocene Era

ANSWER: Students' answers may vary.

Essay

51. Elaborate on the multidisciplinary nature of the study of early human societies. Also give examples of the types of artifacts that might be found in the local area.

ANSWER: Answers would include a discussion on the lack of sources, the field of anthropology, subfields within anthropology and archaeology, and the nature of the study of early human societies.

52. Describe life in Paleolithic society. Then discuss some of the many aspects and challenges that a member of a modern society would face in reverting to a hunter-gatherer lifestyle.

ANSWER: Answers would include a discussion of the hunter-gatherer lifestyle and significant challenges and issues including food procurement, cave art, group size, and conflicts among groups.

53. Compare and contrast the development of hominids and societies during the Paleolithic Age and the Neolithic Age.

ANSWER: Answers would include physical changes in humans, migration patterns, hunter and gatherer lifestyle, food production lifestyle, and the development of written and spoken languages.

54. Explain why the Neolithic (food-producing) Revolution was one of man's greatest changes.

ANSWER: Answers would include a discussion on sedentary versus nomadic lifestyle, resulting increase in population, and development of complex societies. Above-standard critical thinking would include a discussion to the relevance of the issue today.

55. How did society change with the adoption of food production?

ANSWER: Answers would include diversification and specialization of labor, private property issues and the development of laws and systematized regulations, gender issues in addition to a treatment of agrarian civilizations and their social structures, as well as thoughts on whether modern society is more matriarchal or patriarchal.

56. What role did metals play in early human societies? Why has iron been called one of history's "key metals"? Furthermore, are these metals still useful today?

ANSWER: Answers would include the evolution of metallurgy especially as it relates to copper, bronze, and iron. A more thorough treatment of iron and warfare would be required along with a critical thinking argument as to iron's significance to warfare and the spread of iron usage in different civilizations.