

Chapter 01 Before History

Multiple Choice Questions

1. (p. 5) The earth came into existence around
- A. five hundred million years ago.
 - B. one billion years ago.
 - C. four to five billion years ago.
 - D. ten billion years ago.
 - E. twenty-seven billion years ago.

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

2. (p. 6) The term *prehistory* refers to the period before
- A. writing.
 - B. the first hominid.
 - C. the appearance of *Homo sapiens*.
 - D. 1000 B.C.E.
 - E. the work of the Greek historian Herodotus.

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

3. (p. 6) From the period four million to one million years ago, which of the following flourished in east Africa?
- A. *Homo sapiens sapiens*
 - B. *Homo erectus*
 - C. Neandertal peoples
 - D. *Homo sapiens*
 - E. *Australopithecus*

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

4. (p. 6-7) Which of the following statements about *Australopithecus* is NOT true?

- A. They produced cleavers and hand axes.
- B. They traveled deliberately over distances as far as fifteen kilometers.
- C. They walked on two legs, thus freeing their arms to work independently.
- D. They produced choppers and scrapers.
- E. They were hominids.

Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens*

5. (p. 7) The most important development of *Homo erectus* was

- A. fire.
- B. stone tools.
- C. walking upright on two legs.
- D. their communication skills.
- E. writing.

Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens*

6. (p. 7) Which of the following statements is NOT true of *Homo erectus*?

- A. They knew how to control fire.
- B. They developed language skills that enabled them to communicate complex ideas.
- C. They had brains roughly the same size as those of modern humans.
- D. They produced cleavers and hand axes.
- E. They walked upright on two legs.

Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens*

7. (p. 7) *Homo sapiens* evolved

- A. one million years ago.
- B. five hundred thousand years ago.
- C. one hundred thousand years ago.
- D. two hundred thousand years ago.
- E. forty thousand years ago.

Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens*

8. (p. 9) *Homo sapiens* had appeared in almost all the habitable regions of the world by around _____ years ago.

- A. 250,000
- B. 100,000
- C. 50,000
- D.** 15,000
- E. 5,000

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

9. (p. 9-10) Between sixty and fifteen thousand years ago, *Homo sapiens* used superior knowledge, sophisticated tools, and language to

- A. build cities.
- B.** exploit the natural world more efficiently than any other species.
- C. establish complex social and political institutions.
- D. develop the first known tools and controlled use of fire.
- E. develop farming communities.

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

10. (p. 10) Which of the following statements is true of the inhabitants of the paleolithic age?

- A. They had mastered writing.
- B. They domesticated animals.
- C.** They were hunters and gatherers.
- D. They had discovered agriculture.
- E. They had mastered working with iron.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

11. (p. 10) Most scholars believe that, during the paleolithic age, social organization was characterized by

- A. a relative social equality.
- B. a ruling priestly class.
- C. a dominant class based on the private ownership of land.
- D. a ruling merchant class.
- E. a dominant matriarchal structure.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

12. (p. 10) The hunting and gathering lifestyle required

- A. male-dominated societies.
- B. life in small bands of thirty to fifty members.
- C. near-total isolation of groups from each other.
- D. that women devote most of their time to child-rearing.
- E. total gender equality.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

13. (p. 14) The Venus figurines

- A. were first found in the ruins of Çatal Hüyük.
- B. date back to the time of *Australopithecus*.
- C. were representative of the matriarchal societies of the neolithic age.
- D. are representations of the goddess of love found in Jericho.
- E. reflect early humans' deep interest in fertility.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

14. (p. 13) With the development of languages, human beings were able to

- A. produce long cutting edges.
- B. accumulate knowledge and transmit it to new generations.
- C. begin to fashion sharp tools from animal bones.
- D. devise means for catching fish from deep waters.
- E. invent spear throwers.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

15. (p. 14) One of the interpretations of the early human cave paintings is that they represent
- A. positive proof of the limited intellectual world of the early human.
 - B. early worship of the forces of evil.
 - C. a variety of sympathetic magic.
 - D. the first conscious development of art for its own sake.
 - E. a complicated, and so far indecipherable, written language.

Topic: Paleolithic Society

16. (p. 15) What do archeologists now believe is the most fundamental difference between the neolithic and paleolithic eras?
- A. artistry
 - B. use of tools
 - C. use of fire
 - D. reliance on foraging for subsistence
 - E. reliance on cultivation for subsistence

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

17. (p. 16) One of the earliest known agricultural techniques was
- A. crop rotation.
 - B. hunting and gathering.
 - C. slash and burn.
 - D. crop substitution.
 - E. the use of the horse-drawn plow.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

18. (p. 17) The mastery of agriculture led to a population explosion. From a sparse population of around four million in 10,000 B.C.E., the global figure rose by 500 B.C.E. to around

- A. ten million.
- B. forty million.
- C. one hundred million.
- D. two hundred million.
- E. three hundred million.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

19. (p. 17) One of the earliest neolithic settlements was _____, which was located at a freshwater oasis north of the Dead Sea and had a population of around two thousand.

- A. Jericho
- B. Çatal Hüyük
- C. Altamira
- D. Lascaux
- E. Jomon

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

20. (p. 17) Çatal Hüyük is significant because it

- A. marks the beginning of human civilization.
- B. marks the first human use of tools.
- C. was the site of the first human agriculture.
- D. is one of the best known early neolithic settlements.
- E. is the first instance of the use of a land bridge.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

21. (p. 18) The earliest of the three neolithic craft industries was

A. textile production.

B. pottery.

C. carpet weaving.

D. metallurgy.

E. weapon production.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

22. (p. 18) The earliest metal worked systematically by humans was

A. copper.

B. tin.

C. bronze.

D. iron.

E. steel.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

23. (p. 19) The ultimate source of wealth in any agricultural society is

A. gold.

B. copper.

C. land.

D. control over the protective deities.

E. the accumulation of weapons.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

24. (p. 21) In representations of the rapidly changing agricultural cycle, neolithic worshippers sometimes associated fertility with animals like

A. bulls.

B. birds.

C. bears.

D. frogs or butterflies.

E. rats.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

25. (p. 23) Cities differed from neolithic villages in two principal ways. First, cities were larger and more complex than neolithic villages. The second difference was that cities
- A. served the needs of their inhabitants and immediate neighbors.
 - B.** decisively influenced the economic, political, and cultural life of large regions.
 - C. were less advanced militarily.
 - D. had populations in the thousands.
 - E. had protective deities.

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

True / False Questions

26. (p. 7) *Homo erectus* flourished from around two million to two hundred thousand years ago.
- TRUE**

*Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens**

27. (p. 17) Jericho is a site of cave paintings in Spain.
- FALSE**

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

28. (p. 18) Çatal Hüyük was a village in south central Anatolia with a population of around five thousand.
- TRUE**

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

29. (p. 7) The definition of *Homo sapiens* is "consciously thinking human."
- TRUE**

*Topic: Evolution of *Homo sapiens**

30. (p. 12) Neandertal peoples flourished in Europe from around two hundred thousand to thirty-five thousand years ago and who performed deliberate burials accompanied by ritual observances.

TRUE

Topic: Paleolithic Society

31. (p. 15) The term for "new stone age" is neolithic.

TRUE

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

32. (p. 13-14) The sculptures of women usually depicted with exaggerated sexual features are known as Venus figurines.

TRUE

Topic: Paleolithic Society

33. (p. 7) *Homo erectus* is the order of primates that flourished in Africa as early as four million years ago.

FALSE

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

Essay Questions

34. Trace the development of *Australopithecus*, *Homo erectus*, and *Homo sapiens*. What effect did they have on the world around them?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

35. Explore the rise of the city. In what ways was the city different from the large villages of the earlier neolithic age?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

36. Richard Leakey wrote, "Humans are unique because they have the capacity to choose what they do." What is the significance of this statement? When did humans develop the ability to choose? Is there a negative side to this capability?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

Topic: Paleolithic Society

37. Are there drawbacks to the rise of complex societies? In other words, is every aspect of civilization good? Are there still problems today that stretch back to the rise of civilization?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

38. Examine the profound changes brought about by the discovery of agriculture. How did this seemingly simple discovery change the course of human history?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

39. Explore the culture of the paleolithic age. What does it say about their changing world? In what ways did paleolithic humans try to make sense of the world?

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

40. Examine the changing world of the neolithic age. What were the foundations of this age? In what fundamental ways was it different from the preceding paleolithic age? In what ways were the accomplishments of this period setting the stage for the rise of complex societies?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture
Topic: Paleolithic Society

41. Discuss some of the profound differences between the paleolithic and neolithic ages. What allowed for these differences? How did these differences affect development after the neolithic age?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture
Topic: Paleolithic Society

42. Explore the early human cave paintings at Lascaux and Altamira. Explain how this art is an expression of human advancement.

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

43. What do the elaborate burial rituals of Neandertal humans tell us about these people and their view of their place in the universe?

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

44. Use the maps in this chapter to follow the path of human habitation. What areas were inhabited most recently? Why?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

45. Examine Map 1.2, "Origins and early spread of agriculture." What can the type and spread of agricultural products tell us about the movements of human beings and the nature of their relationship to each other?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

46. Examine the image of the Venus figurine on page 14. What is the significance of this image? What can it tell us about the mind-set of early humans? Why would this image represent fertility to early humans?

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

47. What could the cave painting on page 13 tell the modern viewer about the paleolithic world? How does it express the paleolithic belief of sympathetic magic?

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

48. Look at the cave paintings on pages 15 and 16. How do they represent the changing world of the neolithic age? Why would the themes be different from those in paleolithic cave paintings?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

49. Look at the picture of the pottery on page 20. What role did pottery play in human development? Why would it be in the shape of a deer?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

50. What was the significance of the discovery of Lucy's bones?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

51. What set the genus *Australopithecus* apart from other animal species of the time?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

52. What were the most important changes in the evolution from *Australopithecus* to *Homo erectus*?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

53. What advantages did *Homo sapiens* possess over *Homo erectus*?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

54. What were the differences between the Neandertal and *Homo sapiens*?

Answers will vary

Topic: Evolution of Homo sapiens

Topic: Paleolithic Society

55. What is the significance of cave art? The Venus figurines?

Answers will vary

Topic: Paleolithic Society

56. How did the gradual transformation from hunting and gathering to agriculture probably occur? How did it spread?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

Topic: Paleolithic Society

57. What were the most significant positive and negative effects of the agricultural transition on human society?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

58. What were the earliest craft industries to emerge and how did they benefit those living in neolithic villages?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture

59. How did early cities differ from neolithic villages and towns?

Answers will vary

Topic: Neolithic Transition to Agriculture