

Chapter 1

I. The Evolution of *Homo Sapiens*

A. The Hominids

1. *Australopithecus*

- a. Appeared in east Africa about 4 million to 1 million years ago
- b. The term means "the southern ape" but it belongs to hominids
- c. Walked upright on two legs, well-developed hands
- d. Fashioned stone tools, probably knew how to use fire later

2. *Homo erectus*

- a. Flourished 1.5 million to 200,000 years ago, east Africa
- b. The term means "upright walking human"
- c. Large brain, sophisticated tools, definitely knew how to control fire
- d. Developed language skills in well-coordinated hunts of large animals

3. Migrations of *Homo erectus*

- a. First migrated to north Africa
- b. Between 500,000 and 200,000 years ago migrated to Asia and Europe

B. *Homo sapiens*

1. *Homo sapiens*

- a. The term means "consciously thinking human"
- b. Evolved as early as 250,000 years ago
- c. Brain with large frontal regions for conscious and reflective thought
- d. The advantages of intelligence over other species

2. Migrations of *Homo sapiens*

- a. Beginning more than 100,000 years ago, spread throughout Eurasia
- b. Several ice ages between 120 and 25 thousand years ago
- c. Land bridges enabled them to populate islands of Indonesia and New Guinea
- d. Arrived in Australia at least 60,000 or perhaps as long as 120,000 years ago
- e. Between 40,000 and 25,000 years ago, migrated to North America

3. The natural environment

- a. *Homo sapiens* used knives, spears, bows, and arrows
- b. Brought tremendous pressure on other species

II. Paleolithic Society

A. Economy and Society of Hunting and Gathering Peoples

1. Economic life

- a. Prevented individuals from accumulating private property

- b. Lived an egalitarian existence
 - c. Social equality probably extended to relations between sexes
 - d. Lived in small bands, about 30 to 50 members in each group
2. Big game hunting
 - a. Large animals included elephant, mastodon, rhinoceros, bison, wild cattle
 - b. Paleolithic hunters used special tools and tactics for hunting large animals
- B. Paleolithic Culture
1. Neandertal peoples
 - a. Named after the site of the Neander valley in S.W. Germany
 - b. Flourished in Europe and S.W. Asia between 100 and 35 thousand years ago
 - c. Careful, deliberate burials-evidence of a capacity for emotion and feelings
 2. Cro-Magnon peoples
 - a. The first human beings of fully modern type, appeared 40,000 years ago
 - b. Classified as *Homo sapiens sapiens*
 - c. A noticeable interest in fashion and artistic production
 3. Venus figurines
 - a. Besides jewelry and furniture, there were also Venus figurines and paintings
 - b. The figurines reflect a deep interest in fertility
 4. Cave paintings
 - a. Best known are Lascaux in France and Altamira in Spain
 - b. Subjects: mostly animals
 - c. Purposes: aesthetic, "sympathetic magic"

III. The Neolithic Era and the Transition to Agriculture

- A. The Origins of Agriculture
1. Neolithic era
 - a. "New stone age" - refined tools and agriculture
 - b. Time period: from about 12,000 to 6,000 years ago
 - c. Most likely, paleolithic women began systematic cultivation of plants
 - d. Paleolithic men began to domesticate animals
 - e. "Agricultural transition" is better than "agricultural revolution"
 2. Early agriculture
 - a. The earliest evidence found between 10,000 to 8000 B.C.E.
 - b. Slash-and-burn cultivation involved frequent movement of farmers

- c. About 5000 B.C.E., agriculture was well-established in Asia and Americas
 - 3. The spread of agriculture
 - a. Advantages of cultivation over hunting and gathering
 - b. Agriculture provided a surplus
- B. Early Agricultural Society
 - 1. Population explosion caused by surplus
 - 2. Emergence of villages and towns
 - a. Jericho, earliest known neolithic village, site north of the Dead Sea
 - b. Agricultural society, supplemented by hunting and limited trade
 - c. Mud huts and defensive walls
 - 3. Specialization of labor
 - a. The neolithic site of Çatal Hüyük (south-central Anatolia)
 - b. Developed into a bustling town with 8000 inhabitants
 - c. Three prehistoric craft industries - pottery, metallurgy, and textile production
 - 4. Social distinctions
 - a. Agriculture brought about private land ownership
 - b. Social classes emerged, as seen in Çatal Hüyük site
- C. Neolithic Culture
 - 1. Paleolithic communities had already honored Venus figurines
 - 2. Neolithic peoples celebrated deities associated with life cycle
- D. The Origins of Urban Life
 - 1. Emergence of cities
 - a. Cities were larger and more complex than neolithic villages and towns
 - b. Cities influenced political, economic and cultural life of large regions
 - 2. Earliest cities in the valley of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, 4000 to 3500 B.C.E.

CHAPTER GLOSSARY

Australopithecus (p. 9) - "Southern ape," earliest species of hominids; flourished in east Africa between four million and one million years ago; walked upright on two legs; fashioned crude stone tools by well-developed hands with opposable thumbs; had limited ability to communicate verbally; might have used fire in later ages.

Çatal Hüyük (p. 24) - One of the best known neolithic towns; located in south-central Anatolia (modern-day Turkey) and dated from 7250 to 6150 B.C.E.; had about eight thousand inhabitants; various products found in this site indicate specialization of labor.

cave paintings (p. 18) - prehistoric art of Cro-Magnon peoples dating from about 35 to 12 thousand years ago; mostly found in caves in southern France and northern Spain; most of the subjects were animals, which reflect the artists' interest in successful hunting expeditions.

Cro-Magnon peoples (pp. 17-18) - Paleolithic peoples; the first human beings of the fully modern type; appeared about 40 thousand years ago; displayed a noticeable interest in fashion, artistic expression, and a strong concern about fertility.

hominids (p. 9) - Human and humanlike species, one of the most distinctive of the primate species; share some remarkable similarities with large apes, but small differences in genetic makeup and body chemistry led hominids to develop an extraordinarily high order of intelligence.

Homo erectus (pp. 10-11) - "Upright walking human"; species of hominids; flourished in east Africa between 1.5 million and two hundred thousand years ago; possessed brains larger than that of *Australopithecus*; fashioned more sophisticated tools; knew how to control fire; had effective language skills; between five hundred and two hundred thousand years ago spread to north Africa and Eurasian landmass.

Homo sapiens (pp. 12-13) - "Consciously thinking human"; species of hominids; possessed a large brain with a broad frontal region for conscious and reflective thought; used refined tools for hunting and gathering; remarkable intelligence and language skills enabled them to adapt to widely varying environments; beginning more than one hundred thousand years ago, spread throughout the eastern hemisphere.

Homo sapiens sapiens (pp. 13, 17) - Human beings of fully modern type; first appeared on the earth about 40,000 years ago (Cro-Magnon peoples).

Jericho (pp. 23-24) - One of the earliest known neolithic villages; site of a fresh-water oasis north of the Dead Sea in present-day Israel; dates from about 8000 B.C.E.; had about two thousand residents; cultivated wheat and barley and engaged in a limited amount of trade.

Neandertal peoples (p. 16) - *Homo sapiens* who flourished in Europe, southwest Asia, Africa, and east Asia between about 100 thousand to 35 thousand years ago; named after the site of the Neander valley in southwest Germany; known for their careful, deliberate burial accompanied by ritual observances.

neolithic (pp. 19-20) - "New stone age"; early stages of agricultural society, from about 12 thousand to 6 thousand years ago.

paleolithic (p. 14) - "Old stone age"; extended from the evolution of the first hominids (4 million years ago) until about 12 thousand years ago; societies typified by using crude stone tools, hunting and gathering for subsistence.

prehistory (p. 8) - Period of human history before the invention of writing.

Shanidar cave (pp. 16-17) - A Neandertal site located north of modern-day Baghdad; known for its ritual of burying the dead in beds of flowers.

Venus figurines (pp. 17-18) - Small sculptures of women found in many Cro-Magnon sites; exaggerated sexual features reflect a deep interest in fertility.

TEXTUAL QUESTIONS FOR ANALYSIS

1. Compare and contrast the following hominids-*Australopithecus*, *Homo erectus*, and *Homo sapiens*. What accounts for their success in the contest for survival in the natural world?
2. Describe paleolithic hunting and gathering society.
3. What were the advantages of agricultural society over hunting and gathering society? Why was agriculture important to the development of complex society?
4. What were the beliefs of the paleolithic and neolithic peoples? How were these beliefs related to their daily lives?