Chapter 1

The Peopling of the World,

Prehistory–2500 B.C.
4,000,000 B.C. First hominids appear in Africa.

2,500,000 B.C. Paleolithic Age begins.

1,600,000 B.C. *Homo erectus* appears.

8000 B.C. Neolithic Age begins; first agriculture takes place.

40,000 B.C. Cro-Magnons appear.

2600 B.C. City of Ur flourishes in Sumer.
Human Origins in Africa
Scientists Search for Human Origins

- Scientists Discover Clues
  - Archaeologists
    - excavating and studying the traces of early settlements
  - Anthropologists
    - study culture, or people’s unique way of life by examine the artifacts at archaeological digs
Mary Leakey Finds Footprints

- Mary Leakey led a scientific expedition to the region of Laetoli in Tanzania in the 1970’s
- 1978 they found prehistoric footprints that resembled those of modern humans

• Footprints were made by humanlike beings called australopithecines
• Humans and other creatures walking upright are called hominids
• Donald Johanson Discovers “Lucy”
  – Johanson and his team were exploring sites in Ethiopia
  – 1974, Johanson’s team found an unusually complete skeleton of an adult female hominid
  – “Lucy” had lived around 3.5 million years ago
• Hominids in Motion
  – Lucy and the hominids of East Africa were species of australopithecines
    • They walked upright to travel distances more easily
    • They were able to spot threatening animals and carry food and children
  – These early hominids had already developed the opposable thumb
Progress During the Old Stone Age

• The Stone Age
  − Invention of tools, mastery over fire, and the development of language
  − The Old Stone Age or Paleolithic Age, lasted from about 2.5 million to 8000 B.C.
  − The New Stone Age, or Neolithic Age, began about 8000 B.C. and ended as early as 3000 B.C.
• Homo Habilis: The First Toolmaker?
  – Homo Habilis appear in East Africa around 2.5 million years ago
  • 1960, Mary Leakey and her husband, Louis, discovered a hominid fossil in northern Tanzania
  • They named the fossil Homo habilis - “man of skill”
  • Homo habilis used lava rock tools to cut meat and crack open bones and could butcher elephant meat
• Homo Erectus Is More Intelligent
  – About 1.6 million years ago Homo erectus appeared in East Africa
  – Homo erectus was a more intelligent and adaptable species than Homo habilis
    • Homo erectus people used intelligence to develop technology to meet their needs
    • These hominids became skillful hunters and invented more sophisticated tools for digging, scraping, and cutting
• **Homo erectus used fire**
  – The bands of hunters may have carried torches to drive herds of animals into marshes
  – The control of fire helped *Homo erectus* settle new lands

• **Homo erectus** might have developed the beginnings of spoken language
  – Teamwork needed to plan hunts and cooperate in other tasks probably relied on language
The Dawn of Modern Humans

• Neanderthals’ Way of Life
  – The Neanderthals’
    • They had heavy slanted brows, well-developed muscles, and thick bones
    • They lived between 200,000 and 30,000 years ago
    • They developed religious beliefs and performed rituals
• The Shanidar Cave Funeral
• They lived in caves or temporary shelters made of wood and animal skins
• Neanderthals used stone blades, scrapers, and other tools
• The Neanderthals about 30,000 years ago
• Cro-Magnons Emerge
  – Cro-Magnons appear 40,000 years ago
    • Their skeletal remains show that they are identical to modern humans
  – Cro-Magnons had superior hunting strategies
  – Cro-Magnons’ had advanced skill in spoken language
Recent Findings Add New Knowledge

– 1994, fossil hunters in Ethiopia found a 2.33 million-year old jaw
  • The oldest fossil belonging to the species that includes modern humans
  • They found stone tools which suggests that the first toolmakers emerged earlier than previously thought

– In 1996, a team of researchers dated a Neanderthal bone flute - between 43,000 and 82,000 years old
 Humans Try to Control Nature
Achievements in Technology and Art

• A New Tool Kit
  – Hunter-gatherers
    • Nomadic groups depending on hunting animals and collecting plant foods
    • Prehistoric hunter-gatherers increased their food supply by inventing tools
– Early modern humans launched a technological revolution
  • They used stone, bone, and wood to fashion make 100 different tools
• Paleolithic Art
  – Cave paintings in France and Spain
  – In Africa, early artists engraved pictures on rocks or painted scenes in caves or rock shelters
  – In Australia, they created paintings on large rocks
The Neolithic Revolution

• Causes of the Agricultural Revolution
  – Change in climate
    • Rising temperatures worldwide provided longer growing seasons and drier land for cultivating wild grasses
    • Grain helped support a population boom
    • Farming offered an alternative to hunting and gathering
• Early Farming Methods
  – Slash-and-burn farming
    • Cutting of trees or grasses and burned them to clear a field
    • The ashes fertilized the soil and farmers planted crops for a year or two
    • Move to another area repeated the process
• Domestication of Animals
  – Hunters were key in the domestication of animals
    • They domesticated horses, dogs, goats, and pigs
  – Nomads tended sheep, goats, camels, or other animals
    • These herders moved their animals to new pastures and watering places
• Revolution in Jarmo
  – The Zagros Mountains in northeastern Iraq - the birthplace of agriculture
  – The environmental conditions favored the development of agriculture
    • Wild wheat and barley, along with wild goats, pigs, sheep, and horses build the foundation for modern life
Villages Grow and Prosper

- Farming develops in different regions of the world
  - Africa:
    - The Nile River Valley a important agricultural center for growing wheat, barley, and other crops
  - China:
    - 8,000 years ago, farmers along the Huang He cultivated a grain called millet.
    - 1,000 years later, Neolithic farmers domesticated wild rice in the Chang Jiang River delta
– Mexico and Central America:
  • Farmers cultivated corn, beans, and squash

– Peru Farmers in the Central Andes:
  • First to grow tomatoes, sweet potatoes, and white potatoes
• Catal Huyuk
  – South-central Turkey
    • Farmers produced wheat, barley, and peas
    • Villagers raised sheep and cattle
  – Highly skilled workers
    • Potters and weavers
    • Catal Huyuk was best known for obsidian products
  – Cultural life
    • Religious shrines dedicated to a mother goddess
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<tr>
<th>Lifestyle</th>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Hunting and Gathering</strong></td>
<td>• The land supplies whatever is needed.</td>
<td>• People are always searching for new food sources.</td>
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<td>• Movement is easier when food is scarce.</td>
<td>• It is more difficult to store food.</td>
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<td>• Life encourages cooperation and language skills.</td>
<td>• People must carry everything along when traveling.</td>
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<td>• Special weapons and tools develop for hunting and digging up plants.</td>
<td>• Only simple social organization was possible.</td>
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<td><strong>Settled Communities</strong></td>
<td>• Crops provide a reliable food supply.</td>
<td>• Crop failures due to weather or pests cause famines.</td>
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<td>• Population grows as life becomes more complex.</td>
<td>• Floods, fire, or even raiders could destroy villages.</td>
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<td>• Societies become more complex.</td>
<td>• Disease spreads easily when people live together.</td>
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<td>• Trade increases and commerce develops.</td>
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<td>• Division of labor allows workers to specialize.</td>
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