

Chapter Summary

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 1 *Hunter-Gatherers*

- The Paleolithic Age, also known as the Old Stone Age, began about 2.5 million years ago. It lasted until about 8000 B.C.
- Paleolithic people were nomads who survived by hunting and gathering their food.
- During the Paleolithic Age, people discovered how to make fire. They developed better tools and spoken language.
- About 100,000 B.C. the most recent Ice Age began.
- During the Ice Age, the level of water in the oceans went down. As a result, a land bridge was revealed connecting Asia and North America.
- Humans survived the Ice Age by adapting to their surroundings. They changed their diet, built sturdier shelters, and used animal skins to make warmer clothing.

Lesson 2 *The Agricultural Revolution*

- The Neolithic Age began around 8000 B.C., at the end of the last Ice Age, and lasted until about 4000 B.C.
- During the Neolithic Age, farming began to replace hunting and gathering. People also tamed animals. The move to settled farming is known as the Agricultural Revolution.
- An increased supply of food made it possible for people to settle in villages.
- People were able to take up jobs other than farming.
- At the end of the Neolithic Age, people discovered that mixing copper and tin formed bronze, which was stronger than copper alone.
- Between 3000 and 1200 B.C., the use of bronze spread. This time is known as the Bronze Age.
- Four great river valley civilizations emerged during the Bronze Age—Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.
- Each of these early civilizations developed cities and formed governments.
- Religion began to play a more important role in society. Societies were divided into social classes. Writing systems were invented, and art grew more complex.