**UNIT 2 World History**

**WARM-UP EXERCISE.** *Discuss the following with your instructor and fellow students. You can keep notes before or after the discussion*.

* What do you know about the Stone Age, the Bronze Age and the Iron Age?
* How long did each one of them last approximately?
* What were the prevailing conditions of life - climate, humans, plants, animals?
* What do you imagine life was like on the planet then?
* What you know about *prehistoric humans*?

**NOTES.**

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**NAVIGATION. KEY TERMS.** *Study the following words prior to reading the text*.

**genetics**: a branch of biology that studies the heredity of organisms; the genetic characteristics of an organism

**linguistics**: scientific study of language and its structure

**(First) Agricultural Revolution (or, Neolithic Revolution)**: the prehistoric transition from hunting and gathering to settled agriculture, after the end of the last ice age (ca. 11,700 years ago); *husbandry*: farming; agriculture; the care, cultivation, and breeding of crops and animals

**settlement**: a place, previously sparsely populated or uninhabited, where people settle to live

**subcontinent**: a land mass somewhat smaller than a continent: e.g., the Indian subcontinent is part of the Asia continent

**READING World History**

Human history, also called World history, is the narrative of [humanity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human%22%20%5Co%20%22Human)'s past, studied and understood through [anthropology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anthropology%22%20%5Co%20%22Anthropology), [archaeology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archaeology%22%20%5Co%20%22Archaeology), [genetics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetics%22%20%5Co%20%22Genetics), and [linguistics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics%22%20%5Co%20%22Linguistics). Since the [invention of writing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_writing%22%20%5Co%20%22History%20of%20writing), human [history](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History%22%20%5Co%20%22History) has been investigated through [primary](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Primary_source%22%20%5Co%20%22Primary%20source) and [secondary source](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_source%22%20%5Co%20%22Secondary%20source) documents.

Humanity's written history was preceded by its [prehistory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistory%22%20%5Co%20%22Prehistory), beginning with the [Palaeolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleolithic%22%20%5Co%20%22Paleolithic) era. This was followed by the [Neolithic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic%22%20%5Co%20%22Neolithic) era, which saw the *[Agricultural (or Neolithic) Revolution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neolithic_Revolution%22%20%5Co%20%22Neolithic%20Revolution)* begin in the [Middle East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_East%22%20%5Co%20%22Middle%20East) around 10,000 [BCE](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Common_Era%22%20%5Co%20%22Common%20Era). The term “Neolithic Revolution” was coined by Australian archaeologist V. Gordon Childe in 1935, to describe the radical and important period of change, in which humans began the systematic [husbandry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture%22%20%5Co%20%22Agriculture) of plants and animals. The advent of agriculture separated Neolithic people from their Palaeolithic ancestors.

As agriculture advanced, most humans transitioned from a [nomadic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nomad%22%20%5Co%20%22Nomad) to a settled lifestyle as farmers in [permanent settlements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization%22%20%5Co%20%22Civilization). The relative security and increased productivity, provided by farming, allowed communities to expand into increasingly larger units, fostered by advances in [transportation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_transport%22%20%5Co%20%22History%20of%20transport).

The earliest complex societies appeared in fertile river valleys. As farming developed, [grain agriculture](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cereal%22%20%5Co%20%22Cereal) became more sophisticated and prompted a [division of labor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Division_of_labor%22%20%5Co%20%22Division%20of%20labor), to store food between growing seasons. Labor divisions led to the rise of a leisured [upper class](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_class%22%20%5Co%20%22Upper%20class) and the development of [cities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cities%22%20%5Co%20%22Cities), which provided [the foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cradle_of_civilization%22%20%5Co%20%22Cradle%20of%20civilization) for [civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civilization%22%20%5Co%20%22Civilization). This in turn led to a growing complexity of human societies, which necessitated systems of [accounting](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Accounting%22%20%5Co%20%22Accounting) and writing.

**TASKS.**

**Task 1.** *Answer the following questions*.

1. “World history is the narrative of humanity’s past”. What does this mean?
2. What are primary and secondary source documents?
3. What was the significant change that occurred in the Neolithic era?
4. What were some of the consequences of the Neolithic Revolution?

**Task 2a.** *Mix and Match*.

Match the words with their definitions.

1. document
2. invention
3. investigate
4. precede
5. narrative
6. transition
7. settle
8. productivity
9. foster
10. accounting

**A.** look into, probe, explore

**B.** encourage, stimulate

**C.** come before (something) in time, order or position

**D.** an account, written or spoken; story

**E.** the process of keeping financial accounts

**F.** go and live in a place permanently

**G.** official paper, providing information; record

**H.** a period of changing from one condition to another

**I.** discovery, innovation

**J.** ability and effectiveness of production

**Task 2b.** *Writing.*

Use any of the following words to form new phrases or sentences.

**document; invention; investigate; precede; narrative;**

**transition; settle; productivity; foster; accounting**

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**Task 3.** *Individual Work*.

Write a summary of the above text on ‘Human history’ in your own words.

**Task 4.** *Presentation.*

1. Use the internet to find some information/a video of your choice on *Agriculture* *in* *prehistoric* *times*.
2. While watching, take notes of what you think is important for later reference.
3. Show the video in class and discuss it with your fellow students and instructor.

**Task 5.** *Food for thought*.

Read the following questions. Make a choice you are interested in and discuss it with your fellow students and instructor in class.

1. How did permanent settlements come about?
2. Agriculture was one of humanity’s major inventions. What changes did it bring about?

**USEFUL TERMS.**

**Geochronology:** the branch of [geology](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=579651652&q=geology&si=ALGXSlZCBshTM3a3nPTSW0d1OmQeMQzUBXGMiKzreiRE3rpu6bKB4ciBjzzghcK_6-1IQpL8GBNrd-e7Z8fUeo_YMKIr7lmKow%3D%3D&expnd=1) concerned with the dating of rock [formations](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=579651652&q=formations&si=ALGXSlbK6dNKc3P-z0hratVoTzWIrZ1HAyDXepEDAW8OHx7scGQEBQDNjw79nc5BPJrwCP5KQnvZE4AW6zR2QQSAwOG7vBHajRiAL2difC7Ctg4H8s4tyuA%3D&expnd=1) and [geological](https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&sca_esv=579651652&q=geological&si=ALGXSlbK6dNKc3P-z0hratVoTzWINu5WE_mjsqsCkSc7BVgLj8uddmub3AahRgjl_kZnDY4Q1BTqCbn7qrbcxgvrl62n5ceKOaDPLibU_u8Uby1bHApPCNA%3D&expnd=1) events

**Aeon** or, **Eon:** (geology, from the Greek, *αιών*),an immeasurably long period of time[*Palaeozoic, Mesozoic, Cenozoic*]

**Period:** a major rank below an eon and above an epoch [e.g., *Cambrian period, Jurassic period*]

**Epoch:** a subdivision of a period, itself subdivided into ages, corresponding to a series in chronostratigraphy [e.g., *the Pliocene epoch*]

**Age:** the smallest hierarchical geochronologic unit, equivalent of a chronostratigraphic stage; a subdivision of a period [e.g., 23.03 million years]

***Eras***: Classical Era - Medieval Era - Early Modern Era - Modern Era // the Christian Era, et al.

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**N.B.** In the scientific ***[Before Present](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Before_Present%22%20%5Co%20%22Before%20Present)*** system of numbering years for purposes of *[radiocarbon dating](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radiocarbon_dating%22%20%5Co%20%22Radiocarbon%20dating)*, the reference date is January 1, 1950.

**Task 6.** *Define the following terms*.

When do the following Ages occur? What are the dates of the Ages?

**Stone Age**

Old Stone Age or Palaeolithic Age

Middle Stone Age or Mesolithic Age

New Stone Age or Neolithic Age

Epipal**ae**olithic or, Epipal**e**olithic

**Bronze Age**

Early Bronze Age

Late Bronze Age

**Iron Age**