

Reading and Thinking in World History

BOOK 1

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■ UNIT I ■

The First Civilizations

(5000 B.C. – 250 B.C.)

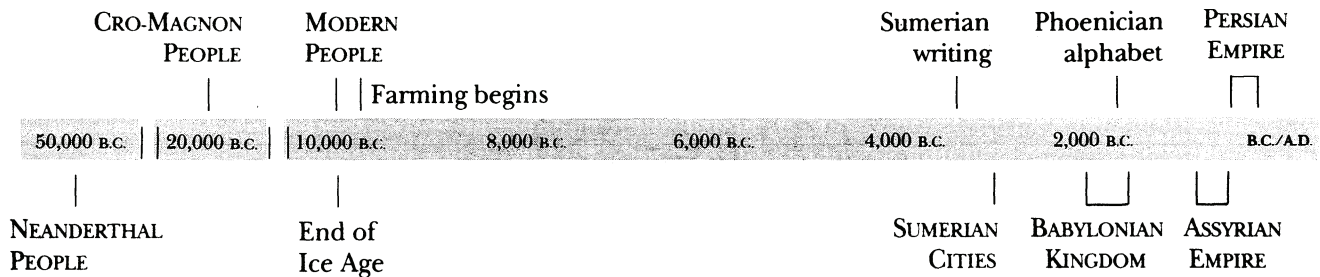
—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—
PREREADING
Survey

The Beginning of Civilization. Chapter _____, Pages _____.

Directions: Read the chapter introduction, the chapter summary, and the title of the chapter. Then write what you think will be the main idea of the chapter.

Main idea: _____

Time Line



Study the time line above. Based on your analysis, give it a suitable title.

Title: _____

Now look over the subtitles, pictures and captions, and maps and charts in the chapter. What do you expect the chapter to be about?

—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—

PREREADING

**Vocabulary Activity—
Using Context Clues**

The Beginning of Civilization. Chapter _____, Pages _____.

Directions: Place each of the terms listed below on the proper line in the paragraph.

Agricultural Revolution	culture	Neolithic Age (New Stone Age)
archaeologists	domesticating	Paleolithic Age (Old Stone Age)
artifacts	historic period	prehistoric
civilization	Ice Age	technology
Cro-Magnon	Neanderthals	

Since early humans had no system of writing, they left no written records. This period is called _____, a time before written history. _____, people who study the _____ or things left behind by early humans to learn about their _____, or way of life, believe that humans have spent almost all of their time on earth as wandering hunters. The earliest and longest period of prehistory is called the _____ because of the use of crudely made stone tools. During this period humans used stone, wood, and bones for their tools and weapons. They also learned how to use fire. A heavily built, strong group of humans called _____ roamed most of the earth from about 120,000 to about 30,000 years ago until they were replaced by the more advanced _____. About 10,000 years ago, the earth warmed enough to end the _____. The change in climate brought about a change in the way humans lived. They went slowly from hunting, to food gathering, to _____ or taming animals, to farming. Their stone tools were made stronger and sharper by polishing rather than chipping and the new period was called the _____ after the new stone tools. With the growth of farming, humans could settle in one place, and a quickening of change, called the _____, started. This led to today's advanced _____, use of tools, and complex organization of society or _____. With the development of writing humans entered the period of written records, or the _____.

—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—
 INFORMATION SEARCH
Compare and Contrast

The Beginning of Civilization: Prehistoric Peoples and Times. Chapter _____ ,
 Pages _____ .

Directions: Place an **X** in any column to which the word or phrase in the left-hand column applies. Be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

Part I

	NEANDERTHAL	CRO-MAGNON	BOTH
Men were primarily hunters.			
Painted on cave walls			
Lived in small groups			
Used stone tools			
Had better hunting weapons			
Women were gatherers.			
Used fire			
Physically more like modern people			
Believed in an afterlife			

Part II

	PALEOLITHIC AGE (OLD STONE)	NEOLITHIC AGE (NEW STONE)	BOTH
People were hunters and gatherers.			
People first became farmers.			
People first learned to make stone tools.			
First domesticated animals			
Weaving and pottery making began.			
Climate became drier and milder.			
Settled communities first formed			

—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—
 INFORMATION SEARCH
Who Did What, and Why

The Beginning of Civilization: Sumerian Civilization. Chapter _____, Pages _____.

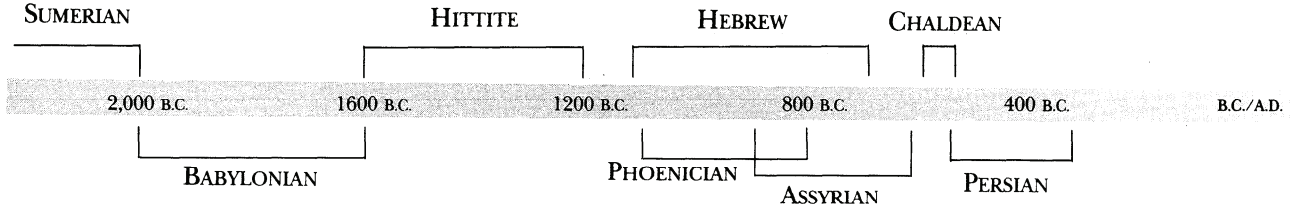
Directions: Complete the chart by writing the parts of each sentence below the chart that answer the questions: Who? What? and Why? One of them is done for you.

WHO?	WHAT?	WHY?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5. the people	obeyed the king and the priests	because they spoke for the gods
6.		
7.		
8.		

1. The farmers needed a more complex government to organize flood control and irrigation.
2. Because of the food surplus, people could specialize and do different jobs.
3. Citizens of the first cities enclosed them with a high wall for defense.
4. A religious people, the Sumerians built large temples, called ziggurats, to worship the gods.
5. The people obeyed the king and the priests because they spoke for the gods.
6. Sumerian priests developed writing to keep tax records and inventories.
7. The Sumerians were weakened by frequent wars among their city-states.
8. Not having geographic barriers, the people of Sumer were finally conquered by outside invaders.

—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—
 INFORMATION SEARCH
Structured Overview

The Beginning of Civilization: The Fertile Crescent. Chapter _____, Pages _____.



Directions: Place the names of civilizations from list A in chronological order on the lettered lines. Then place each of the phrases from list B on a numbered line to show the civilization to which it refers. Each term is used once.

List A

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|
| Assyrians | Chaldeans | Hittites | Phoenicians |
| Babylonians | Hebrews | Persians | Sumerians |

List B

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| advanced astronomy | first alphabet | iron-wheeled chariots |
| belief in one God | first written code of laws | Ten Commandments |
| cuneiform writing | Hammurabi | left a fine library |
| efficient, harsh rulers | Hanging Gardens | seagoing traders |
| efficient, humane empire | invented arch | the secret of iron |
| empire stretched to India | | |

A. _____

1. _____

2. _____

B. _____

1. _____

2. _____

C. _____

1. _____

2. _____

D. _____

1. _____

2. _____

E. _____

1. _____

2. _____

F. _____

1. _____

2. _____

G. _____

1. _____

2. _____

H. _____

1. _____

2. _____

—Chapter 1. The Beginning of Civilization—
 POSTREADING
Reflection and Reaction

The Beginning of Civilization: Chapter _____, Pages _____.

Directions: Place a check (✓) in any of the three columns to which you think the word or phrase in the left-hand column applies. Be prepared to explain the reasons for your choices.

	HUNTERS AND GATHERERS	SUMERIAN CITY DWELLERS	THE UNITED STATES
A good way of life			
Civilization			
Control of environment			
Cooperation			
Culture			
Freedom			
Frequent change			
Law and order			
Self-sufficiency			
Social classes			
Specialization of labor			
Stored food supply			
Technology			
Trade			
Written records			

Now, working in small groups, agree among yourselves on the correct columns for each of the phrases. Mark the group choices with an **X**. Then choose a leader to share your group's decisions and the reasons for your decisions with the class.