

Prehistory Review: Lessons 1-4

A ¹Prehistory is the time before writing was invented (c. 3000 B.C.). ²Scientists struggle to know exactly what happened in prehistory because there is no written evidence. ³However, paleontologists, archaeologists, anthropologists, and geographers use evidence such as fossils and artifacts to learn more about prehistory.

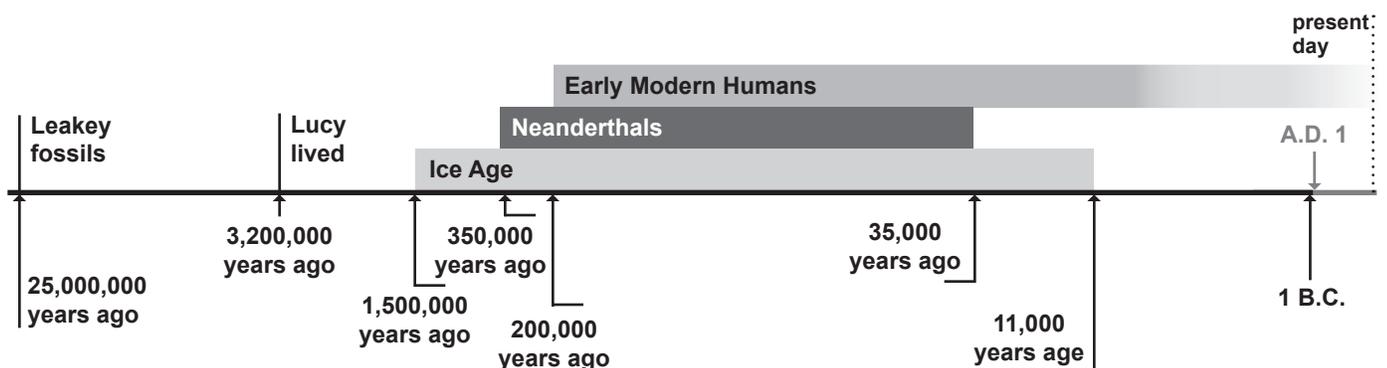
B ⁴Historians primarily study the written word to document the past, and they are very concerned with dates. ⁵Historians use B.C. to signify the years “Before Christ,” and A.D. to mean “In the Year of our Lord.” ⁶A century means 100 years. ⁷The abbreviation “c.” stands for circa, and is used when historians aren’t sure of the exact date.

C ⁸There are several theories about the beginnings of man. ⁹Most scientists think humanlike creatures evolved over millions of years into modern humans. ¹⁰Other scientists think humans represent a separate being. ¹¹Evidence has been found that shows similarities between pre-humans and humans, however, no conclusive evidence has been found to link the two.

D ¹²Neanderthals are one group of pre-humans who share many characteristics with humans. ¹³Some scientists have recently identified evidence that there are humans outside of Africa who share Neanderthal DNA. ¹⁴Still, there is great debate over the relationship of modern humans to Neanderthals. ¹⁵Neanderthals lived from about 350,000 to 35,000 years ago, walked upright, were approximately 5 feet tall, used tools, hunted the same animals as Modern Man, and used fire.

E ¹⁶Nearly all scientists agree Early Modern Humans are our primary human ancestors. ¹⁷Early Modern Humans most likely emerged from Africa over 200,000 years ago. ¹⁸They hunted with spears and made tools from blades of flint, used pierced shells and tooth and bone pendants for body decorations. ¹⁹Early Modern Humans created cave wall drawings of woolly mammoths, lions, and cave bears and used colors such as red, black, and brown made from different types of berries and other materials, including fire coal.

F ²⁰For most of prehistory, humans were hunters and gatherers, following animal herds and gathering wild fruit and grains until after the last great ice age ended about 10,000 years ago. ²¹In the Middle Stone Age (c. 8,000 to 6,000 B.C.), humans discovered that plants came from seeds and this led to farming. ²²Farming allowed humans to leave their nomadic way of life and form small settlements along the great rivers in the world. ²³They created better tools to hunt, domesticated animals, including goats for food and milk, and dogs for hunting. ²⁴Humans used a needle and thread for sewing, had seasonal homes, and used harpoons for better fishing.



G ²⁵During the New Stone Age (c. 6000 to 3000 B.C.), human discoveries and inventions greatly changed life. ²⁶The potter's wheel, underground food storage, the millstone, and cloth improved human life. ²⁷These discoveries made it possible for small settlements to grow into small cities. ²⁸These larger civilizations formed along the great rivers of the world: the Nile in Africa, the Tigris and Euphrates in Arabia, the Indus River in India, and the Huang He River in Asia.

H ²⁹Prehistory ends and history begins c. 3000 B.C., when the Sumerians created the first organized writing system, called cuneiform.

Questions

- Which of the following conclusions is best supported by the lesson?
 - All scientists agree on the origin of man.
 - Pre-human creatures cannot be man's ancestors.
 - Neanderthals did not use tools.
 - Neanderthals and Early Modern Humans co-existed for over 100,000 years.

Which sentences best support the answer?

_____, _____

- What do scientists use if there are no written records to learn about ancient civilizations?
 - fossils
 - cave paintings
 - artifacts
 - all of the above

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- When did history begin?
 - when writing was invented
 - with the Neanderthals
 - during the New Stone Age
 - in the Middle Stone Age

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- Based on this lesson, you can conclude:
 - Historians spend most of their time studying before the time of Sumerians.
 - Early Modern Humans were excellent artists.
 - Urban settlements grew with new knowledge and inventions that improved life.
 - Making a home by a river was not good.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

- Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.
 - _____ Modern humans evolved from humanlike animals.
 - _____ Many ancient civilizations settled around rivers.
 - _____ Humans are separate beings from prehumans.
 - _____ Neanderthals lived before writing was invented.
- Before the invention of writing, how did humans survive?
 - They were nomads.
 - They hunted game.
 - They found wild plants to eat.
 - all of the above

Which sentence best supports the answer?

7. Number the events in chronological order.
- a. ____ New Stone Age
 - b. ____ Middle Stone Age
 - c. ____ Neanderthals exist
 - d. ____ Sumerians invent writing
8. This lesson implies or suggests:
- a. Neanderthals were killed by humans.
 - b. Early Modern Humans were stronger than Neanderthals.
 - c. Human advancements allowed for the change from nomadic lifestyles to permanent settlements.
 - d. Early Modern Man decorated their bodies.

Which sentence best supports the answer?

9. Mark each statement T for true or F for false.
- a. ____ Early Modern Humans were meat eaters.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - b. ____ Not all scientists agree about the origins of man.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - c. ____ Rivers were important to ancient man.
Which sentence best supports the answer?

 - d. ____ Neanderthals established the Sumerian civilization.
Which sentences best support the answer?
_____, _____

Written Response Question

10. a. Which discovery helped the most in establishing small villages?

- b. What inventions helped to make larger, permanent settlements?

Prehistory Review: Lessons 1-4 Answers

1. d, sentences 15, 17
2. d, sentence 3
3. a, sentence 29
4. c, sentence 27
5. a. O
b. F
c. O
d. F
6. d, sentence 20
7. a. 3
b. 2
c. 1
d. 4
8. c, sentence 22
9. a. T, sentence 18
b. T, sentence 8
c. T, sentence 22
d. F, sentences 15, 29
10. a. Key points: Farming made it easier to stay in one area.
b. Key points: Food storage, the potter's wheel, millstone, and cloth improved human life.