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.
Questions

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

   Which sentences best support the answer? _____, _____

2. What do scientists use if there are no written records to learn about ancient civilizations?
   a. fossils
   b. cave paintings
   c. artifacts
   d. all of the above

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

3. When did history begin?
   a. when writing was invented
   b. with the Neanderthals
   c. during the New Stone Age
   d. in the Middle Stone Age

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

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

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

5. Mark each statement F for fact or O for opinion.
   a. Modern humans evolved from humanlike animals.
   b. Many ancient civilizations settled around rivers.
   c. Humans are separate beings from prehumans.
   d. Neanderthals lived before writing was invented.

6. Before the invention of writing, how did humans survive?
   a. They were nomads.
   b. They hunted game.
   c. They found wild plants to eat.
   d. all of the above

   Which sentence best supports the answer? _____

G 25 During the New Stone Age (c. 6000 to 3000 B.C.), human discoveries and inventions greatly changed life. The potter’s wheel, underground food storage, the millstone, and cloth improved human life. These discoveries made it possible for small settlements to grow into small cities. These 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 28 Prehistory ends and history begins c. 3000 B.C., when the Sumerians created the first organized writing system, called cuneiform.
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.