

**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 1-1 (continued)**

**The Invention of Tools** Paleolithic people were the first to use tools and methods to help them perform tasks. This is called **technology**. Tools were made of a hard stone called flint. Flint would flake into sharp pieces when hit with a rock. By tying wooden poles to different shapes of flint, people made axes and spears.

Over time, early people made smaller and sharper tools—like fishhooks and needles—from animal bones. People used needles to make nets and baskets and to sew hides together for clothing.

- 5. How did the development of spoken language help Paleolithic people?

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**Neolithic Times** (page 13)

**Main Idea** In the Neolithic Age, people started farming, building communities, producing goods, and trading.

After the last Ice Age ended, people began to change the way they lived. They learned how to **domesticate**, or tame animals. More control over animals meant more meat, milk, and wool. People also learned how to grow plants. People no longer had to roam from place to place in search of food. They could grow crops themselves. Gradually, farming replaced hunting and gathering.

These changes marked the beginning of the Neolithic Age. Also called the New Stone Age, this period lasted from about 8000 B.C. to 4000 B.C.

**Why Was Farming Important?** Historians call the Neolithic Age the farming revolution. The word *revolution* describes changes that affect many areas of life.

Farming first developed everywhere. People scattered across the globe discovered how to grow crops at about the same time. What they grew depended on where they lived.

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Region	Crops
Asia	wheat, barley, rice, soybeans, millet
Africa	coffee, cocoa, millet, barley, onions, wheat, flax
Europe	oats, rye, olives
South America	beans, cotton, peanuts, potatoes, peppers, coffee, cocoa
North America	beans, sunflowers, squash

**The Growth of Villages** Farming allowed people to stay in one place. Herders still drove their flocks wherever they could find grazing land. Farmers, however, had to stay put. They needed to water their plants and protect them from hungry animals. They also had to wait to reap the harvest. So they built permanent homes and created villages.

During the Neolithic Age, villages grew in Europe, India, Egypt, China, and Mexico. The earliest known communities have been found in the Middle East. One of the oldest is Jericho, which dates back to about 8000 B.C.

Another well-known Neolithic community is Çatal Hüyük in present-day Turkey. This village was home to about 6,000 people between 6700 B.C. and 5700 B.C. Some of its ruins have left behind clues to how its residents lived. For example, mud-brick houses were packed tightly together. People made wall paintings. They farmed, hunted, raised sheep and goats, worshiped together, and ate fish and bird eggs.

**The Benefits of a Settled Life** Neolithic people had a more secure life. Steady food supplies meant healthy, growing populations. Larger populations meant more workers to produce a bigger crop. Now they had a surplus to use for trade both within and outside their communities.

People made another advance in how they produced things. They began to practice **specialization**, or the development of different kinds of jobs. Now, not everyone needed to farm. So some people had time to develop other types of skills. These craftspeople made clay pottery and wove cloth. These workers then traded what they made for goods they needed.

**READING ESSENTIALS AND STUDY GUIDE 1-1 (continued)**

In late Neolithic times, toolmakers created better farming tools, such as the sickle, used for cutting grain. In some places, people worked with metal. At first, they melted copper to make tools and weapons.

After 4000 B.C., craftspeople in western Asia made a discovery. They mixed copper with tin to make a stronger, longer-lasting metal called bronze. It became widely used between 3000 B.C. and 1200 B.C. This period is known as the Bronze Age.

- 6. Name two differences between people during the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages.

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