**Prehistory** – the time before writing was developed

**Anthropology** – the study of human life and culture. Anthropologists use artifacts and human fossils to create a picture of people’s everyday lives.

**Culture** –  includes what people wear, how they organize their society, and what they value.

**Archaeology** – the study of past societies through analysis of what people left behind. Archaeologists dig up and examine artifacts—objects made by humans.

**Artifact** – Artifacts may be tools, weapons, art, and even buildings made by early humans.

**Homo Sapiens** – The first anatomically modern humans, appeared in Africa between 200,000 and 150,000 years ago. They probably spread out of Africa to other parts of the world about 100,000 years ago, replacing populations of earlier hominids in Europe and Asia. This is referred to as the “out of Africa movement”

**Paleolithic Age** – used to designate the early period of human history (approximately 2,500,000 b.c. to 10,000 b.c.) in which humans used simple stone tools. *Paleolithic*comes from Greek words meaning “old stone,” and the Paleolithic Age is sometimes called the Old Stone Age.

**Hunters & gatherers** – A forager society is one in which most or all food is obtained from wild plants and animals

**Nomads** – a member of a community of people who live in different locations, moving from one place to another

**Neolithic Revolution (Agricultural Revolution)** –

a fundamental change in the way people lived. The shift from hunting & gathering to agriculture led to permanent settlements, the establishment of social classes, and the eventual rise of civilizations

**Domestication of plants and animals** –

the process of adapting wild plants and animals for human use. Domestic species are raised for food, work, clothing, medicine, and many other uses. Domesticated plants and animals must be raised and cared for by humans. Domesticated species are not wild.

**Civilization –** the process by which a society or place reaches an advanced stage of social development and organization.

**MESOPOTAMIA**

**Priests -** in early urban civilizations, important and powerful people who supervised rituals aimed at pleasing gods and goddesses

**Polytheistic-** believing in many gods

**Ziggurat -** massive stepped tower on which was built a temple dedicated to the chief god or goddess of a Sumerian city

**Dynasty** - a family of rulers whose right to rule is passed on within the family.

**Bureaucracy -** an administrative organization that relies on nonelected officials and regular procedures

**EGYPT**

**Hieroglyphics -** “sacred writings” – a complex system of writing that used both pictures and more abstract forms; used by the Ancient Egyptians and Maya

**Hieratic script -** simplified version of hieroglyphics used in ancient Egypt for business transactions, record keeping, and the general needs of daily life

**Pastoral nomads-** a person who domesticates animals for food and clothing and moves along regular migratory routes to provide a steady source of nourishment for those animals

**MEDITERRNEAN**

**Monotheism -** belief in one god

**INDUS VALLEY**

**Monsoon -** a seasonal wind pattern in southern Asia that blows warm, moist air from the southwest during summer, bringing heavy rains, and cold dry air from the northeast during the winter

**Sanskrit -** the first writing system of the Aryans, developed by 1000 B.C.

**ANCIENT CHINA**

**aristocracy -** an upper class whose wealth is based on land and whose power is passed on from one generation to another

**filial piety** - the duty of family members to subordinate their needs and desires to those of the male head of the family

**MESOAMERICA**

**obsidian -** a dark natural glass stone formed by lava

**rituals -** a ceremony or a rite