NOTES FROM **UNIT 1 EARLY HUMANS** POWERPOINT

VOCABULARY

Nomad- a person who travels from place to place

Climate- an area’s average weather conditions over a long span of time

Geography- the study of the relationship between the physical features, climate, and people

Migrate- to move from one area to another

Domesticate- to tame wild animals or plants

Culture- the technology, customs, beliefs, and art of a group of people

Adapt- to alter one’s behavior to the surroundings

Surplus- extra supply

Hunter-gatherers- a group of people who survive by hunting and gathering

Technology- any artifact created by humans to solve problems

NOTES

How did Early Humans adapt to their environment?

* They used the resources they found in their environment.
* They created simple tools out of stone, wood, and bone.

What did Early Humans use the tools for?

* They had two main purposes for tools.
* One was making clothes:
  + Bone needles
  + Animal hides
* The other was hunting and creating other tools:
  + Stone axe
  + Hand axe
  + Stone spear

Stone Tools = Stone Age

Problems:

1. Hunting food
2. Cooking food
3. Creating shelter
4. Making clothing

What do you need to solve these problems? Technology: Any artifact (tool) created by humans to solve problems in life.

Old Stone Age

Old Stone Age: 3.5 Million years ago to 10,000 years ago.

* + Fire.
  + Basic stone tools.
  + Basic wood, antler, bone tools. (think needles, fishhooks)

New Stone Age

New Stone Age: 10,000 years ago to 5,000 years ago.

* + Polished rock tools (much better)
  + Started domestication of animals- goats, sheep.
  + Stone Age ended when people began working with metal.

What types of shelter did Early Humans have?

* Early humans mainly took shelter in caves and trees.
* Sometimes they would hide within their animal hides.

What were the technological advances of Early Humans?

* The advances that early humans made were the use of:
  + Stone tools (silica)
  + Fire
  + Human brain (communication)
  + Cave art

What were the major discoveries made during the Stone Age?

* Early humans discovered that fire kept them warm, allowed them to cook food, and helped with hunting.
* They also discovered that pine resin (sap) allowed them to keep the fires burning when it rained.

What makes a person a hunter-gatherer?

* Early humans followed their food! If the food migrated, then the people migrated.

Archaeological evidence has shown that the earliest humans started life in Africa.

What evidence do we have about the culture of Early Humans?

* The only true evidence we have is the cave art left behind.
* It was the basic language they used to communicate with each other, and now, us.

What were the Early Humans religious beliefs?

* We do know they buried their dead.
* Based on cave art, we can assume they also believed in an “afterlife” of some sort.

What were the major climate changes and how did Early Humans adapt?

* Early Humans were **nomads** and **migrated** to follow their food. As their food moved, they moved.
* The major climate change that affected their lives was the **Ice Age.**  It caused the following to happen:
  + Lack of food
  + Shorter days
  + Created more land
  + Land bridge used to migrate from Asia into North America

All life is a competition for energy.

A hunter-gatherer needs 10 square miles of territory to provide for himself.

A farmer needs only 1/10th of a square mile of land to provide for himself.

What do you need in order to develop farming?

* + Water source
  + Fertile land
  + Reasonable climate

The Fertile Crescent has more plants/animals that are able to be domesticated.

The people who live here are the first to develop civilization.

How does farming help build civilization?

* As a nomad, a person could not collect “things”
* Life was hard, food was inconsistent
* When farming makes food consistent, people create surplus.

The Role of Men and Women

* During prehistoric times, men and women were part of small clans.
* Men were in charge of hunting and creating weapons. Because the role of the hunter was so important, men were often in charge of the clan.
* Women were in charge of gathering plants for food, gathering fuel for fires, and taking care of children.