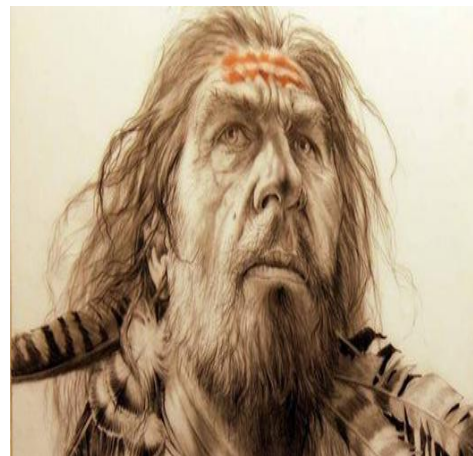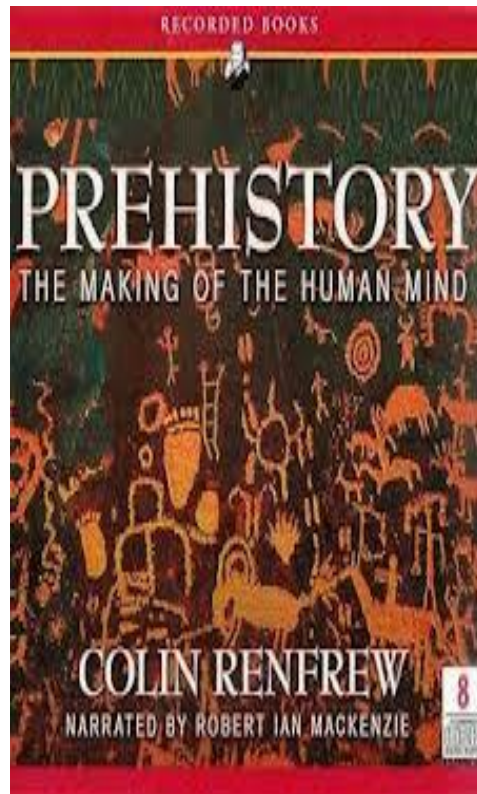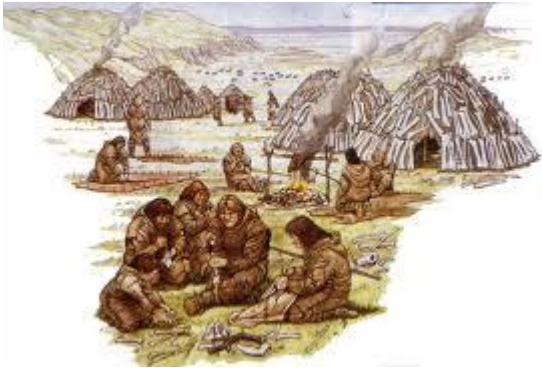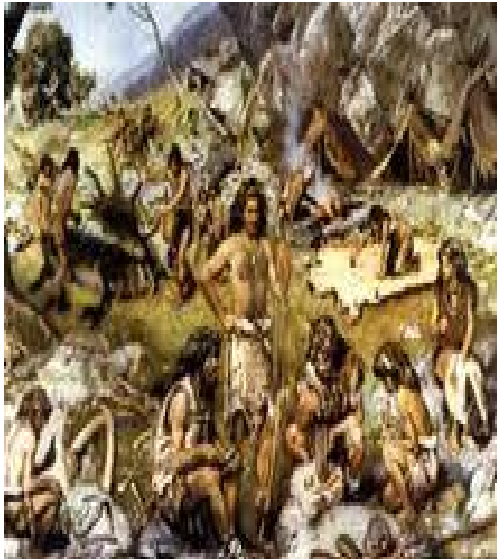# Prehistory
Origins of "World History"

What is Prehistory?

- **<u>Human Prehistory</u> is the time before written records.**

- The **<u>origins</u>** of all human culture (Technology, Religion, Art, Music, Dance, Storytelling, and Social Structure) were developed.

What is Social Structure?

- ## Social organization for living in groups…

- **The roles individuals develop… in the groups in which they live** (shaman/spiritual leader, hunters, tool makers, gatherers, artists, elders etc…)

- **Hunter/Gatherers**　　　**Nomads**　　　**Clans/Tribes**

Neolithic Social Structure

- **Neolithic Development of villages and permanent settlements…leads to an increase in 'Job specialization"** (farmers, traders, soldiers, artisans, pottery maker, medicine men,)

- **The Domestication of animals and farming allowed for Permanent Settlements.**
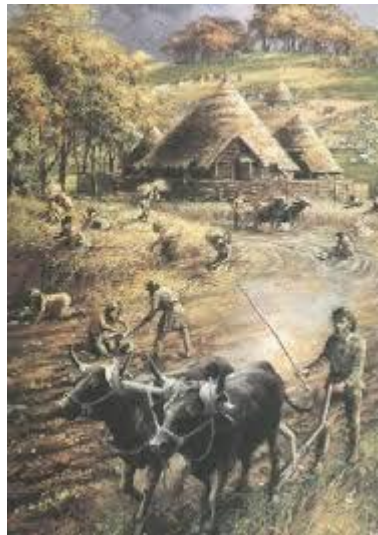
What is technology?

- **Technology- Application of knowledge for practical use…**

- **Development of tools, weapons, machines, shelter, and clothing to assist a species in living…**

- **Hand axe   Knives   Lean -to   Sewing needles**

Neolithic Technology

Neolithic period will reflect the development of simple machines and the mastery of surroundings for benefit.

Domestication of animals and farming establish the foundations for the growth of civilizations

What is Religion?

- **Explanations of the unknown and interpretations of the known…** creation myths, life after death theories

- **Development of first religious ideas are nature based**

Animism and Shamanism

- **Animism** - all things (animate and inanimate) are alive and have a soul (spirit)

- **Shamanism** - belief in an unseen world of gods, demons, and ancestral spirits responsive only to the shamans

What is Art?

- **Expression of the Human "soul" and "consciousness" through images, words, sounds and movement…**

- **Development of petroglyphs, percussion instruments, sound/music, dance and language…**

Cave painting, Lascaux, France, 15,000 to 10,000 B.C.

When was Prehistory?

- Prehistory (the time before written records) is divided into three time periods:

- Paleolithic (Old Stone Age)
- Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age)
- Neolithic (New stone age).

- If Paleo- means old and meso- means middle and neo- means new: What does lithic mean? _____.
(Use Inductive reasoning)

Timeline of Prehistory
-    = 25,000 years

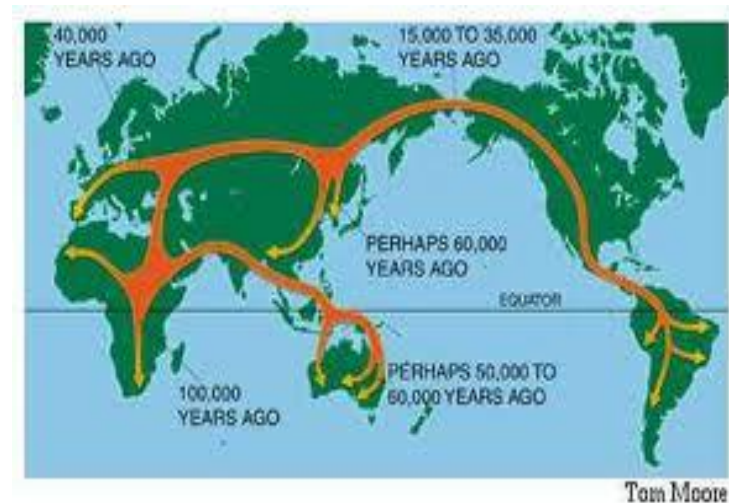|---|

Paleolithic -   ??   to   12,000 BCE (BC)

Mesolithic-   12,000BCE   to 10,000BCE

Neolithic-   10,000BCE   to 5,000BCE

Where did Prehistory take place?

- Earliest Human cultures originated in Africa

- Later migrations led to the peopling of Europe and Asia
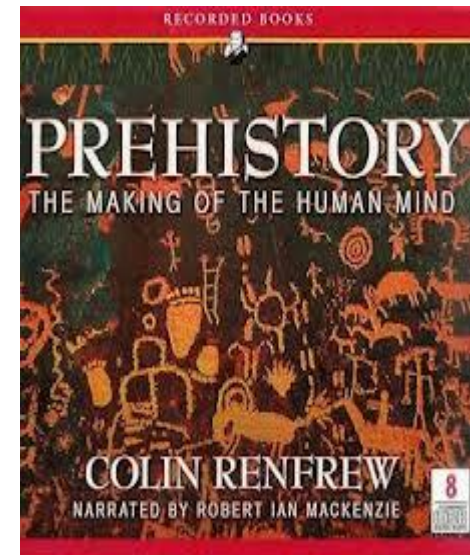
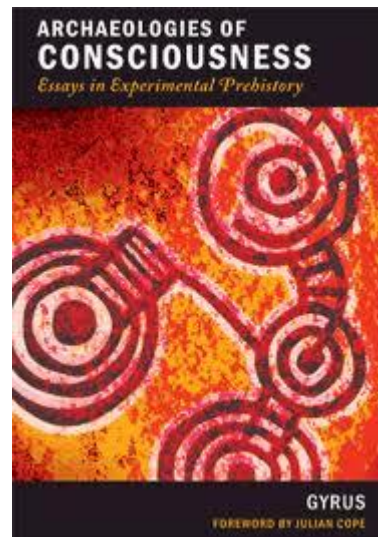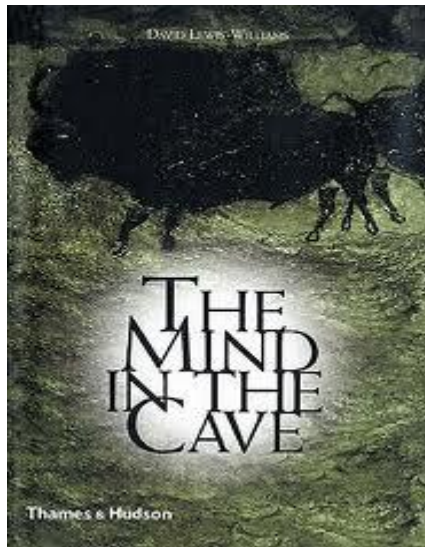- Eventually North and South America were settled

Who were the Prehistoric people?

- Prehistoric people are human beings who lived before writing was invented about 5,500 years ago.
- People who lived during this period are known as prehistoric people.

Why is Prehistory so important?

- Prehistory created our human consciousness...that still exists today.   (Mortality/ Fear of the dark/Curiosity)

- All aspects of human culture evolved from prehistoric origins. (art, music, religion, technology, social structure)
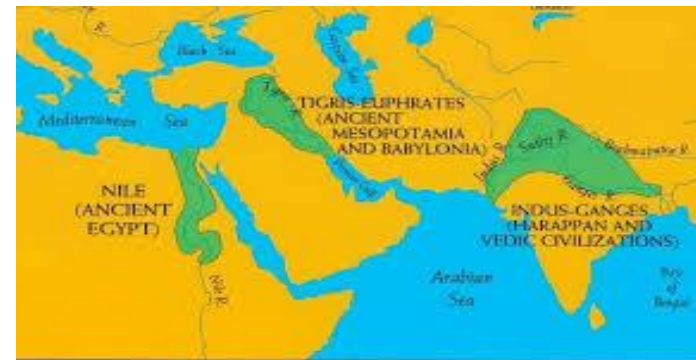
How did Neolithic developments lead to increases in art, music and eventually writing?

The result of permanent settlements and job specification gave people more time to develop "leisure" activities.

How did prehistory lead to the development of civilizations?

- **Civilizations developed in cities**. The Neolithic revolution (domestication of animals and farming) allowed for the growth of cities. (see notes that accompany this slide)

- Farming required access to water...all early civilizations developed along major bodies of water.

Wisdom- Results of the Paleolithic Period

Paleolithic/Old Stone Age:

Hunter/gatherers- nomadic

Mastery of Fire

Invention of Tools

Language and Religion

Art

Wisdom- Results of the Neolithic Period

Neolithic/New Stone Age:

Permanent settlements- villages and cities

Domestication of animals and farming...increase in population

Use of Metals...Bronze/Copper

Development of Trade...transportation methods, excess products

Specialized labor...pottery makers, jewelry makers, etc