

Unit one

Introduction to
history

1) History definitions

History is all of the events that happened in the past and that we should remember. People who study History are called historians.

The main historical sources that historians use to study past events are: oral sources, written sources, graphic sources and material sources.

2) the timeline of history

History is divided in five different ages:

Prehistory, Antiquity or Ancient History,

the Middle Ages, the Modern Age and the Contemporary Age.

<u>PREHISTORY</u>		ANCIENT HISTORY	MIDDLE AGES	MODERN AGE	CONTEMPORARY AGE
Palaeolithic	Neolithic	3200 ^{BC} → 476 ^{AD} The fall of the Roman Empire	476 ^{AD} → 1453 The discovery of the Americas	1453 ^{AD} → 1789 The French Revolution	1789 → up today Present Day

BC means before Christ قبل الميلاد / AD means: Anno Domani (in the years of the lord): بعد الميلاد

PREHISTORY

Prehistory is divided in two periods: the **Palaeolithic** and the **Neolithic**.

The PALAEOLITHIC Age extended from the time the first human beings appeared until the development of livestock farming and agriculture.

About one million years ago, the first human beings appeared. They lived in **groups**. They hunted, fished and picked wild berries to live. They were **nomads** and they lived in **caves** or small **huts** made of branches or animal skin. They used **fire**. They made dresses with animal skin or vegetable fiber. Their tools were made of **stone, wood, bones or shells**. They painted animals or people on the walls of caves.

The NEOLITHIC Age extended from the development of livestock farming and agriculture until the invention of writing.

Seven thousand years ago, they grew plants and tamed animals and became **sedentary**. They lived in **villages** with many inhabitants. They weaved cotton or wool and invented **pottery**. They got **metals** such as copper, bronze or iron and sculpted stones.

At the end of the Neolithic Age they built monuments with big stones called **megaliths**. With the invention of writing a new age began.

exercise (n:01)

Choose the correct answers:

1. Prehistory is divided into:

- a) Two periods: The Palaeolithic Age and the Neolithic Age.
- b) Prehistory, Antiquity or Ancient History, the Middle Ages, the Modern Age and the Contemporary Age.

2. The Palaeolithic Age extended:

- a) From the development of livestock farming and agriculture until the invention of writing.
- b) From the time the first human beings appeared until the development of livestock farming and agriculture.

3. During the Palaeolithic Age people were:

- a) Nomads.
- b) Sedentary.

4. During the Palaeolithic Age people:

- a) Hunted, fished and picked wild berries.
- b) Grew plants and tamed animals.

5. During the Palaeolithic Age:

- a) They had tools made of metals such as copper, bronze or iron.
- b) They had tools made of stone, wood, bones or shells.

6. The Neolithic Age extended:

- a) From the development of livestock farming and agriculture until the invention of writing.
- b) From the time the first human beings appeared until the development of livestock farming and agriculture.

7. During the Neolithic Age people were:

- a) Nomads
- b) Sedentary

8. During the Neolithic Age people:

- a) Hunted, fished and picked wild berries
- b) Grew plants and tamed animals

9. In the Neolithic Age:

- a) They made dresses with animal skin or vegetable fiber
- b) They made dresses with cotton or wool

10. Megaliths were build during:

- a) The Palaeolithic Age
- b) The Neolithic Age

Unit TWO

ANCIENT HISTORY

ANCIENT HISTORY

In **Ancient History** the first important **civilizations** appeared: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece and Rome.

One of the most important was the **Roman Empire**. Roman civilization began in Italy. They dominated the Greeks, Carthaginians, Celts and Iberians.

The Romans conquered the Iberian Peninsula and called it **Hispania**. The population adopted the language and customs of the Romans. Their language was Latin and the Spanish language comes from Latin. This process was called "Romanisation".

Here are some important facts:

- o They founded a lot of cities.
- o They wrote the first laws: there were slaves and free people. Free people had rights. They could be part of the government, vote and have lands. Slaves had no rights. They were the property of free people. A woman could be free but she did not have the same rights as a man. She always had to depend on a man, that could have been her father, brother or later, her husband.
- o The Romans built different structures: theatres, circuses, amphitheatres, thermal bath houses, triumphal arches, columns, bridges, aqueducts ...
- o They invented the wheel, so transport and trade were developed.
- o They created a system of stone roads.
- o Culture was developed: architecture, mosaics, sculptures, literature, mythology ...

Questions

1. Name four important civilizations that appeared in Ancient History
2. Where did the Roman Empire begin?
3. What did the the Romans call the Iberian Peninsula?
4. What language did the Romans speak?
5. What do historians call the process by which people adopted the language and customs of the Romans?
6. Name two types of people you could find in the Roman Empire
7. Write five different structures that the Romans built
8. What did they invent?
9. Why were transport and trade developed?
10. What did they create?

The Foundation of Rome

Later Romans preserved two tales about the origin of their people and their city. Both are well known to most people. One of them surrounds the twins Romulus and Remus. The other surrounds the Trojan hero Aenea The story of Romulus and Remus—their escape from death as infants and their founding of Rome—has characteristic folkloric elements that suggest it is very old and local in origin. The story of Aeneas founding Rome, on the other hand, derives from a Hellenized source, reflecting Greek legends, but it is probably older than many have assumed. In this story, Aeneas, the sole survivor of Troy, wandered the Mediterranean before settling in Italy at Lavinium, where he founded a town. The two stories were united into a single tradition by making Romulus and Remus descendants of Aeneas. Aeneas founded the Roman

people; Romulus and Remus founded the city of Rome. Archaeological evidence suggests that settlement at Rome began as early as 1500 B.C., but it does not offer any evidence that substantially contradicts the ancient legends. The site of Rome was advantageous. It overlooked a ford in the Tiber near an island in the stream; it could control north south Traffic between Etruria and Latium and east-west traffic from the interior to the coast. It was hilly, defensible, and well-watered. Signs of early human habitation (i.e., pottery shards) date to circa 1500 B.C., with the first permanent settlement, as indicated by graves, founded in circa 1000 B.C. originally and into the 8th century B.C., Rome was a series of small, separate villages on neighboring hilltops; evidence of these settlements has been found. At some stage—the dates are impossible to establish—these communities coalesced into a single community, and Rome, as an entity, was born. Spectacular finds on the Palatine Hill in Rome in the 1930s revealed postholes for wooden huts that dated to the mid-8th century, circa 750 B.C. Later Romans maintained a hut on the Palatine that they called the Hut of Romulus. 15 That said, archaeology cannot confirm Rome’s founding legends either. Archaeological evidence needs to be interpreted to make sense. The presence of worship centers embracing Aeneas in Lavinium does not prove the Aeneas legend; it is likely the result of the fame of the legend, not vice versa. The coincidence of the Palatine huts and the traditional foundation date does not prove the Romulus legend. In fact, the settlement of which the huts are part dates to 1000 B.C. Archaeological evidence is mute; it cannot prove legendary evidence, but occasionally it can disprove it. The archaeology does suggest an early pattern of settlement at Rome, becoming more complex in the 8th century and coalescing into a single community sometime after that (a process termed synoikism). Therefore, the issue of sources for this early period of Roman history is an important consideration to bear in mind.

Questions to Consider

1. Where did the ancient Roman authors get their information concerning the early period of Roman history?
2. In what precise respects do the archaeological and written sources converge or diverge in their reconstruction of Rome’s founding?.