

1) History definitions**Unit one****Introduction to history**

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

3) 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.

Questions**exercise (n:01)**

A cold wind blew into the cave but Red Fingers didn't shiver. She was a cavegirl and cavegirls didn't feel the cold. She bent down to look at her painting. It was getting dark but the sun lit it up with an orange glow. Fire Man walked up to Red Fingers. He had his hands above his head, trying to make them look like deer antlers. He was telling her about the deer he was cooking for dinner but Red Fingers wasn't hungry. She shook her head and tapped her finger into some paint. She rubbed it into her painting. Fire Man made a noise and patted his belly. "Eat," he seemed to say.

Red Fingers shook her head again. She dipped another finger into the paint. “Eat,” Fire Man repeated. He rubbed his hands together and blew on them. Then, he flicked his arms into the air. He was trying to show Red Fingers that he was making a fire to cook their meal. Even though she was hungry, Red Fingers didn’t want to eat. She wanted to finish her painting and wished Fire Man would leave her alone.

All day, Fire Man had been hunting for food. He had returned carrying a deer with beautiful antlers. She could hear Fire Man grumbling to the others but she didn’t care. She held a red rock over her paint and scraped at it with a stone. Tiny bits of dust fell off like rain and she watched as they spread into her mixture. Red Fingers then spat into the paint, mixing it all together with a stick. The smell of food cooking made Red Fingers stop for a moment. The Old Woman walked up to her, holding something. She held out her hand and gave Red Fingers a piece of warm meat.

Red Fingers sniffed it, then took a bite. She was hungrier than she thought. The meat tasted so good. The Stone Age Artist and she felt bad for ignoring Fire Man. It was getting dark and the Old Woman hobbled off. Wolves howled outside as Red Fingers looked at her painting. It was a picture of a deer with beautiful antlers. That night, Red Fingers thought about all her other cave paintings. She wondered if her children might one day get to see them. A cold wind blew and Red Fingers pulled her fur skin tight. She was soon asleep, dreaming of wolves, mammoths and the deer with beautiful antlers.

Questions

- 1) Why didn’t Red Fingers shiver? Tick **one**.
 because it was getting dark
 because she liked the sun
 because she was a cavegirl and cavegirls don’t shiver
 because the wind was warm
- 2) What animal did Fire Man try to act like?
- 3) What did Fire Man do when he made a noise? Tick **one**.
 grumble
 pat his belly
 dip his finger in the paint
 hunt
- 4) Why do you think Red Fingers spat? Give evidence to help explain your answer.
- 5) Draw a line to match the sentence with the correct ending.

Wolves howled outside

and scraped at it with a stone.

She held a red rock over her paint

than she thought

She was hungrier

as Red Fingers looked at her painting.

- 6) Number these to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

	“Eat,” Fire Man repeated.
	Tiny bits of dust fell down like rain.
	Fire Man walked up to Red Fingers.
01	A cold wind blew into the cave.
	Wolves howled outside.

- 7) It was getting dark and the Old Woman hobbled off.

Unit TWO

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 ...

Carthage and the First Punic War

Rome's rise to dominance can broadly be divided into two halves. The first deals with the western Mediterranean, specifically the city of Carthage. In the second half, it turns its attention to the highly developed Hellenist and Hellenistic half of the eastern Mediterranean in the period beginning around 200 B.C. or so. Rome's rise to dominance of the entire Mediterranean basin falls into two broad phases. First came the conflicts with Carthage that led to Rome controlling the entire western Mediterranean. Second came Rome's complex involvement in the affairs of the Hellenistic kingdoms to the east .

Carthage was an ancient Phoenician city run by a mercantile oligarchy. Located in what is modern-day Tunisia, the city had a long history of involvement in the western Mediterranean. By tradition, Carthage was founded in 814 B.C. by Phoenician traders. Located on a superb harbor with a fertile hinterland and endowed with an enterprising populace, the city quickly rose to a position of power. By the 6th century B.C., Carthaginian trading posts could be found all along North Africa, in western Sicily, in Sardinia, in Corsica, and in Spain. Conflict with the Greek colonies of Sicily, especially Syracuse, was frequent in the 5th and 4th centuries B.C. By the time the Romans had conquered the Italian mainland, a sort of balance of power obtained in Sicily, with Syracuse dominant in the eastern half of the island and Carthage in the west .

Carthage maintained her overseas interests through diplomacy backed by a large fleet and mercenary armies. Originally ruled by a governor, Carthage's autocracy had early given way to an oligarchy of ruling families. As in the Roman Republican oligarchy, two judges (suffetes) were elected annually, and there was a senate-like council. An unusual feature was a permanent court of 104 lifetime members, who scrutinized the affairs of professional generals and admirals. The Carthaginian government was driven by concerns of profit and costeffectiveness, which differed greatly from Rome's motivation. Carthage was run like a large company, with citizens getting a share in the profits of trade .

The Carthaginians resorted to war when necessary but preferred peaceful means of resolving potential conflicts. In contrast, the Romans were motivated by the sociopolitical considerations of loyalty to one's friends and allies and maintaining face .

The First Punic War started small and by accident but developed into a titanic struggle for control of Sicily. The spark that ignited the First Punic war was small. Italian adventurers, called the Mamertines, seized the eastern Sicilian city of Messana and, when pressured by Syracuse, appealed first to Carthage and

then to Rome. The humiliation of the Carthaginian fleet and the movement of the Romans into Sicily caused the Carthaginians to send troops to Sicily to crush the Mamertines. This affair brought Rome and Carthage into open conflict. The course of the war fell into three phases. The first phase (264–260 B.C.) saw Roman and Punic armies fighting on land in Sicily .

The Roman feat of arms in storming and capturing Agrigentum in 262 B.C. cowed the Carthaginians, who avoided engaging the legions in a set-piece land battle for the rest of the war. Roman frustration at the Punic ability to resupply Sicily by sea led to the second phase of the war, fought on the Tyrrhenian Sea and in Africa (260– 255 B.C.). The Romans built a huge fleet in a few months and put to sea in 260 B.C., defeating the Carthaginians at the Battle of Mylae. A Roman invasion of North Africa in 256 B.C. ended with the ambush and defeat of the Roman force in 255 B.C., followed shortly thereafter by the destruction of the Roman fleet in a storm off Sicily.

The third and final phase of the war was fought on Sicily and the surrounding seas (255–241 B.C.). The Carthaginians fought most of this phase of the war as a guerrilla campaign from their impregnable bases at Mount Eryx and Mount Hercte in western Sicily. Both sides also vied for control of naval bases in Sicily. 37 Carthaginian cost-effective thinking hampered their war effort and, in 241 B.C., when they faced a new Roman fleet at the Aegates Islands, they were roundly defeated.

The Carthaginians surrendered, and the Romans imposed weighty terms. The Romans imposed a huge war indemnity and debarred Carthage from Sicily (which Rome promptly annexed). The First Punic War had important ramifications for Rome and for Carthage. Rome enjoyed several benefits as a result of its victory. They had been drawn out of the Italian Peninsula and now possessed their first overseas province, the fertile island of Sicily. They now possessed the largest fleet in the Mediterranean. They took advantage of their fleet and Punic weakness to annex Sardinia and Corsica in 238 B.C., further encroaching into the traditional Carthaginian sphere of activity. Roman tenacity and determination in the face of adversity had been made clear to all. Defeat drove Carthage to new pastures. The closing of the seas around Sicily and Italy drove Carthage westward. Between 241 and 220 B.C., the Carthaginians carved out a small empire in Spain. In certain Carthaginian circles, the Roman victory was too bitter a pill to swallow, and an even larger conflict was to emerge from this circumstance .

Questions to Consider

1. What advantages did Carthage have over Rome as it entered the First Punic War?
2. How do you explain the Carthaginian failure in this conflict ?
3. Where can we find Carthaginian trading centers?
4. How was cartage able to preserve its foreign interests?
5. Can you identify any single turning point in the war and argue why it was decisive?.