

Chapter 1: Before History Reading Questions

The Evolution of Homo Sapiens

p. 6

1. What advantages make *Homo sapiens* “more intelligent and successful” than other species in the genus *Homo*? You should list as many ways as you can find

Paleolithic Society

p. 10

2. What does (egalitarian) mean? Why were Paleolithic people egalitarian?
3. Anthropologists call the things native people know Indigenous Technical Knowledge. What things does a hunter/gatherer society have to know about their natural environment? List as many as you can.
4. Why do most archaeologists believe that Neanderthals believed in an afterlife or at least reflected on matters of life and death?
5. What advantage does language give humans?
6. In what ways did intelligence and language allow early *Homo sapiens* to reflect on their relationship with the natural world?

The Neolithic Era and the Transition to Agriculture

p. 15

7. What factors led to the development of agriculture? List as many as you can.
8. Create a map showing where foods originated and spread.
9. How does society change at the development of agriculture? As always, list as many of ways as you can. Be sure to note how Jericho differs from hunter/gatherer settlements.
10. What new kinds of knowledge are necessary for the success of agriculture?
11. What distinguished early cities from their predecessors, the Neolithic villages and towns? There are two ways.