

UNIT 1 - STUDY GUIDE

World History & Geography 1 Rev.1/20/2011 ©studentsfriend.com

Overview of history and geography - Origins of the earth and humans

Overview: We begin Unit 1 with a one-page overview of major events in world history followed by a review of several basic concepts of history and geography. Then we will look at prehistory, the time when humans first appeared on the earth but before humans developed writing and civilization. We will see that humans invented agriculture near the end of prehistoric times, and this prepared the way for civilization.

Note: You are asked to state your own opinion in this class. But, remember, opinions don't count unless they are backed by historical evidence.

Essential Question: What is human nature?

In your opinion, what characteristic or characteristics make humans different from other animals of the earth?

What changes throughout human history, and what stays the same?

Essential Question: Can we know the truth?

Can we ever be sure we know the truth about an historical event? Why or why not?

If not, what good is history?

Historical Force: How does technology make history?

Might technology have played a role in deciding which human species came to rule the earth? In what important ways does technology affect the world today?

1. Read for understanding pages 1 through 4 of the *Student's Friend*. Demonstrate your understanding by answering the STUDY QUESTIONS for pages 1 and 2 and by summarizing KEY POINTS for the 8 main topics on pages 3 and 4 with answers to the questions: What is it? Why is it important?

Note: Anytime you are asked to describe or explain something in history class, a good answer would include **what it is** and **why it is important**.

2. Correctly spell the 12 main topics on pages 2, 3, and 4 of the *Student's Friend*.
3. Locate on a map of the earth the seven continents, the four oceans, the Great Rift Valley, the Bering Strait, the tropics, the temperate zones, and the arctic/antarctic regions.
4. Explain why societies in sub-Saharan Africa and the Americas might have developed more slowly than societies in Eurasia.
5. Restate in your own words the following two theories: a) big bang, b) plate tectonics.
6. Explain how clues from the language of science tell us that scientists may consider *Homo erectus* to be human, while they may not consider *Australopithecus* to be human.
7. Compare how people made a living during the early Stone Age (Paleolithic period) to how they made a living during the late Stone Age (Neolithic period.)