Chapter 2 Study Guide
The Stone Ages and Early Cultures

Section one: The First People
- __________________________ was not around until 5,000 years ago. Historians call the time before writing prehistory.
- **Hominid**: an ancestor of early humans.
- The earliest human bones were found in **Africa**.
- The first part of the **Stone Age** is called the **Paleolithic Era**.
- A __________________________ is any handheld object that has been modified to help a person accomplish a task.
  - The first tools were made of **sharpened stones**.
  - Later tools were made with a mineral called __________________________.
  - When the spear was invented, people were able to hunt larger animals.

- **Society**: A community of people who share a __________________________ __________________________.
- __________________________-________________________: people who hunt animals and gather wild plants, seeds, fruits and nuts to survive.
  - Men’s role-hunt for food
  - Women’s role-gather food and take care of children
  - Likely lived in small groups

- The early Stone Age people developed **language**. 2 reasons we know of...
  - To form relationships
  - To make it easier for people to hunt and **survive**
- The early Stone Age people also used **art** to communicate.
  - Paintings on cave walls
  - figures carved out of ivory, stone and bones

Section two: Early Human Migration
- About 1.6 million years ago freezing times called **ice ages** were experienced around the world.
- Our early ancestors originated in Africa and migrated to **Asia** next.
- Scientists believe that a __________________________ __________________________ (a strip of land connecting two continents) allowed people to travel by foot from **Asia** to **North America**.
- By 9000 BC humans lived on all continents except for **Antarctica**.

Section three: Beginnings of Agriculture
- The middle Stone Age is known as the **Neolithic Era** (began 10,000 years ago in **South West Asia**).
• During this era, the *biggest changes* came in how people ____________ food.
• ____________: People began to change plants and animals to make them *more useful to humans.*
• This era introduced ____________, or *farming.*
• **Wheat, barley and peas** were some of the main crops grown.
• Domestication ____________(increased/decreased) the need for hunting.
• Populations began to grow.
  o People began to establish permanent settlements (homes)
  o Groups of people gathered to perform religious ceremonies
  o **Megaliths**: huge stones used as monuments