Chapter 1 Study Guide

1. History - the story of humans in the past. It tells what they did and what happened to them.
2. Historians - people who study and write about the human past.
3. Archaeologists - hunt for evidence buried in the ground where settlements might  have been.
4. Anthropologists - study how humans developed and how they related to one another.
5. Paleolithic Age - began roughly 2.5 million years ago and lasted until around 8000 B.C.
6. Nomads - people who regularly move from place to place.
7. Ice Age – period of sustained cold. The last one began about 100,000 BC.
8. Neolithic Age -or new Stone Age, this began about 8000 B.C. and lasted until about 4000 B.C.
9. Bronze Age - Copper became widely used between 3000 BC. and 1200 BC.
10. Hunter-gatherers – early humans who spent most of the time looking for food.
11. Fire – its discovery was so important to early humans and their eventual survival.
12. Civilizations - Complex societies.
13. Tigris and Euphrates - the earliest known civilization began between these two rivers.
14. Mesopotamia – early civilization located in the eastern part of what is known as the Fertile Crescent.
15. Irrigation - to bring water to their fields as a way of watering crops.
16. Sumer - by 3000 BC, many cities had formed in southern Mesopotamia in a region.
17. Cuneiform - consisted of hundreds of wedge shaped marks cut into damp clay tablets with a sharpened read.
18. Scribes - record keepers.
19. Sargon – leader of a people from northern Mesopotamia called the Akkadians.
20. Empire - group of different lands under one ruler.
21. Hammurabi - Babylonian king who began conquering and created the Babylonian Empire.
22. Kings, priests and government officials – top of the Sumerian social pyramid.
23. Artisans, merchants, farmers and fishers – middle of the Sumerian social pyramid.
24. Slaves - bottom of the Sumerian social pyramid.
25. 60 minute hour and 60 second minute – mathematical invention of the Sumerians.
26. Assyrians - founded a new empire arose in Mesopotamia about 1,000 years after Hammurabi.
27. Hittites - developed a way of making iron stronger.
28. Nineveh - capital of Assyria on the Tigris River.
29. Chaldeans - captured the capital city and in 612 BC and the Assyrians Empire soon crumbled.
30. Nebuchadnezzar – King of the Chaldeans
31. Hanging Gardens - visible from any point in Babylon, was an immense staircase of greenery.
32. Caravans - groups of traveling merchants.
33. Astronomers - people who studied the heavenly bodies, mapped the stars, planets, and the phases of the moon.
34. Assyrian Foot Soldiers – Assyrian soldiers equipped with a spear and a dagger.
35. Provinces – political districts.
36. Of all the early civilizations in Chapter 1, which do you think was the best? Give examples of why you chose this civilization over the others.