

# This Fleeting World: An Overview of Human History

By David Christian

Using the reading, *This Fleeting World*, answer the guided reading questions, on separate paper that can be collected for a grade. You are NOT simply answering the guided reading questions, you are taking notes using the question as a basis for your information. Thoroughly and always provide evidence (such as...) to support your answers. Annotate the text as you read and then go back and fully answer the questions. Label and structure your notes/questions in the form below. You will be graded on thoroughness/content, neatness, and organization

## Terms:

Foragers	symbolic language	collective learning	kinship
nomad/nomadism	affluent forager	fire-stick farming	agriculture
Agrarian era	intensive vs. extensive	irrigation	pastoralism
swidden agriculture	Malthusian cycles	alluvial basin	Neolithic Rev.

## Guided Reading Questions:

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Read the introduction and identify and **explain 3-4 main ideas** that will be discussed in this reading packet. Bullet/number these ideas.
2. Write a thesis statement using the main ideas you listed above. You must connect your ideas using active, analytical verbs/transition words (although, led to, resulted in, facilitated, demonstrated, contributed, because, therefore, however...)

### Part I- BEGINNINGS: THE ERA OF FORAGERS

1. Identify and explain Paleolithic era. Describe life during this time.
2. Identify and explain what distinguishes humans from other primates. Why is this significant?
3. Identify and explain why it is difficult to study and gather information about life during the foraging era.
4. Identify and explain three types of evidence and methods that are used to study this period. Support with examples of each.
5. Identify and explain the two theories that scholars use to explain when our species first appeared and migrated to populate the earth. Which do you believe makes the strongest argument? Explain.
6. Explain why SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE most distinguishes the human species from other species. Why is this significant to the development of complex societies?
7. "In human history culture has outstripped natural selection as the primary motor of change." Identify and explain what this means. Use the text to help explain this idea.
8. Identify and explain how foragers kept population low. Why was it important to keep the populations low?
9. Describe the communal groups that existed during this foraging era. What role do these groups play in the economic development of this era?
10. Identify and explain the role of women during this time. How does this compare to that of men?
11. Identify and explain the religious beliefs arose during the foraging era.
12. Identify and explain AT LEAST five major changes that occurred during the foraging era.

13. Identify and explain AT LEAST two continuities (things that did not change) during the foraging era.
14. Identify and explain the impacts humans had on the environment? Why?
15. Explain the term “affluent forager” mean and why were these foragers significant?

**Part II- Acceleration: The Agrarian Era (pp. 15-29)**

1. Describe the agrarian era.
2. Explain how the agrarian era was characterized by diversity. Why was this?
3. Although “world zones” developed during this era, identify and explain the striking parallels that exist between these different parts of the world
4. Identify and explain the major components of agriculture and how did it impacted human life.
- 5 When and where did agriculture start?
6. Identify and explain possible reasons that climate change contributed to the rise of farming.
7. How might population growth have caused sedentary lifestyles?
8. Identify and explain the spread of agriculture.
9. Identify six characteristics shared by agrarian communities.
10. Compare population growth percentages in farming villages versus foraging communities.
11. Explain the secondary product revolution and how did it impacted humans.
12. Explain how pottery helps prove if the theory of a “secondary products” revolution is true.
13. Identify the regions that irrigation farming had the biggest impacts.
14. Explain “Malthusian cycles.”
15. Explain why sedentary societies were susceptible to epidemic diseases.
16. Identify the impacts stored surpluses had on society.
17. Identify and explain how foragers continued to have impact on settled communities.
18. Explain the needs of society change as communities became larger.
19. Identify and explain how and where archaeologists find evidence of institutionalized hierarchies.
20. Explain how and why men became dominant over women.
21. Identify the cities and states and what caused them to emerge.
22. Identify and explain the imperial states that emerged and the limits on imperial rule.

**STOP AT PAGE 29**