The Neolithic Revolution

The Beginnings of Human Civilization
Hunter and Gatherer Societies

- Had to rely on finding food by **hunting** wild game, or **gathering** wild fruits and vegetables.
- Did not allow for permanent settlement.
Out of Africa Theory

- *Homo Sapiens* emerged 250,000 to 100,000 years ago
- Out of Africa Theory: Theory that humans originated in Africa and migrated following herds
Beringia Land-Bridge Theory

- 25,000 – 12,000 years ago
  - Land bridge from eastern Russia to Alaska
  - Supported by archeological evidence
Artifact Interpretation

• What do you think the object is? What does it look like it is made of? How would it have been used?
• How do you think it would have been made?
• What might have been some weaknesses of the tool?
The Neolithic Revolution

• About 10,000 Years Ago humans discovered that some animals (pigs, cattle, goats, and sheep) could be controlled fairly easily
• Also discovered how to cultivate certain grasses (wheat, barley, oats), and how to store them to preserve them through the winter
Critical Thinking Questions

• Why would the ability to stay in one place be an advantage? Would there be any disadvantages?

• What impact would a surplus of food have?
The First Cities

- The first cities developed in Modern day Turkey (Catalhuyuk ca. 7000 B.C.E) and Israel (Jerico ca. 10,000 B.C.E)
Impacts

• Surplus of food allowed for population growth
• Allowed for social stratification and the division of labor
• Would support growth and expansion of groups of people leading to development of permanent “civilizations”
• Would lead to the creation of new technology (pottery, walls, calendar)