Civilization Before Civilization

- Around 30,000 BCE modern concepts of art among the Cro Magnon and other people were reflected in painting and sculpture
- Bodies were accompanied by red ochre, clothing, beads, shells, tools, and burnt parts of slaughtered animals
- Sometimes bodies were bound or wedged into place with stone in order to prevent them from returning to haunt the living
- Keep in mind the hierarchy of needs

Climate and the Mesolithic Age

- The Holocene Epoch began after the end of the last Ice Age, around 10,000 BCE
- At the end of the ice age, glaciers melted, sea levels rose, and the coastal plains flooded, eliminating a major food source for the human populations
- The Mesolithic Age is a transitional period characterized by technological advances based on older technology and by the exploitation of new foodstuffs
- The Holocene Extinction Event occurred during the late Pleistocene Epoch, and large numbers of plants, animals, amphibians, reptiles, and arthropods became extinct, including megafauna such as mammoths
  - Possibly due to glacial retreat, overhunting, or asteroid impact
- People began to adopt sedentary styles of hunting and gathering, specializing in local foodstuffs such as deer, fowl, or squirrel
- Lepenski Vir on the Danube River had a population with a fishing based economy between 7,000 – 5500 BCE
- Mesolithic Period also saw the development of microliths that were used to create tools by gluing shards into wooden or bone handles to make knives and other tools
- The Mesolithic Period also most likely saw the domestication of the dog

The Origin of Noah's Flood

- According to the Bible, the flood occurred roughly around 2300 BCE
- Has been compared to a Near Eastern flood
  - *The Epic of Gilgamesh* is a Mesopotamian story where King Gilgamesh builds an ark to save himself, his family, and his cattle from a flood orchestrated by the gods in about 2100 BCE
- In Greek mythology, Prometheus is warned to build an ark because Zeus intended to destroy humanity with a flood lasting only nine days
- More recent theory proposes that glaciers melting about 10,000 BCE caused the sea levels to rise
  - In 5000 BCE it began to spill over the Bosporus into Anatolia, and into the Black Sea -> water level rose nearly a foot a day