Anthropology Readings
The Worst Mistake in the History of the Human Race; Diamond

1. What does Diamond believe the worst mistake in the history of the human race is? Diamond believes the worst mistake in the history of the human race was the transition from food foraging to farming - aka the Neolithic Revolution.

2. Define paleopathology - the study of signs of disease in the remains of ancient people.

3. What are three reasons agriculture is bad for health?
   - hunter-gatherers have a more varied and balanced diet
   - because of dependence on just a small number of crops farmers ran the risk of starvation if one crop failed
   - agriculture caused people to clump together in societies and trade with other societies which spread diseases

4. What are two social consequences of agriculture?
   - agriculture led to class divisions. Hunter-gatherers cannot have class divisions since they all have to search for food, not just put peasants make it like with farming.
   - gender inequality - in many farming groups women had to do the heavy labor and bore the health consequences

5. What are the fundamental differences between the progressivist and revisionist viewpoints? Progressivists think farming allowed for more leisure time (and therefore the rise of things like art), and improved the quality of life of the people since more food was created. Revisionist claim that hunter-gatherers actually have just as much free time and that they were healthier and lived a more sustainable lifestyle.