**Prehistory and Early Civilizations Vocabulary**

1. **Artifact:**An object made by human beings; often refers to a primitive tool or other relic from an earlier period
2. **Fossil:**Any trace of an organism that lived in the past.
3. **Civilization:**A society with cities, a central-government run by official leaders, and workers who specialize in certain jobs, leading to social classes. Writing, art, and architecture also characterize a civilization.
4. **Class System:**A social order-groups of people are viewed as superior to others (Usually a pyramid)
5. **Nomads:**Groups of people who move from place to place in search of food, water, and pasture for their animals, usually following the seasons
6. **Neolithic Revolution:**A period when humans first started to learn to plant crops and domesticate animals for their food, instead of hunting and gathering
7. **Domestication:**Breeding plants or/and animals to the advantage of humans.
8. **Agriculture:**Growing plants and raising animals for human use.
9. **Cultural Diffusion:**The spread of cultural elements from one society to another
10. **Primary Source:**An original document containing the observations, ideas, and conclusions of an individual. It is a firsthand account presented by someone present or actively participating in the event. Examples include manuscripts, photographs, oral histories, and personal journals.
11. **Secondary Source:**A secondhand account of an event or a retelling of another person's observations written by someone who did not witness or actually participate in the events. Includes sources that combine, synthesize, and or interpret information from primary sources. Examples include encyclopedias, textbooks, and reviews.
12. **Fertile Crescent:**A geographical area of fertile land in the Middle East stretching in a broad semicircle from the Nile to the Tigris and Euphrates
13. **Mesopotamia:**(means land between the rivers) The region between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers; birthplace of the Sumerian and Babylonian Civilizations.
14. **Cuneiform:**A form of writing developed by the Sumerians using a wedge shaped stylus and clay tablets.
15. **Hammurabi:**King of the Babylonian empire; creator of the Code of Hammurabi, one of the world's oldest codes of law.