

Name: _____ Class: _____

Unit 1 – Prehistory: Origins of the Earth and Humans

Directions: Use *The Student's Friend: Unit 1* to answer the following questions.

<http://www.studentsfriend.com/sf/part1see/unit1-1.html> (PDF version in Google Classroom contains Units 1-6; you will consult it quite often.)

5) Big Bang theory

a) What galaxy is Earth located in? How did the galaxy get its name?

b) Most scientists believe that the universe is how old? How old is the Earth?

6) continents

a) Define the word “continent,” and ***label the 7 continents and the Ural Mountains, on the map below*** (you can copy and paste this into a “google drawing” and leave it open because you will be adding more. When you complete the map, paste it in to replace the one below.).

b) What percentage of the Earth is covered in water? What percentage of that water is freshwater? ***Label the 4 oceans on the map.***



7) plate tectonics

a) Where do earthquakes and volcanoes tend to occur? Why do you think this is true?

b) **Define** erosion and give at least 2 **causes** of, and 2 **specific examples** of erosion.

8) Great Rift Valley

a) What are 2 reasons the Great Rift Valley is a good place to investigate human history?

b) Prior to discoveries, at Olduvai Gorge, by the Leakey family, where was it thought humans originated?

c) Write your own definition of technology. List the 5 most important examples of technology in your life and explain why each is so important.

9) Australopithecus

a) What two traits cause some scientists to think of Australopithecines as early humans?

b) What were the main advantages of being bipedal (walking upright on 2 feet)?

c) Australopithecus means what, in Latin? Why is Latin used?

10) Culture

a) Culturally speaking, what constitutes the “West” and “East” (in terms of geography)?

b) Why was the ability to adapt crucial to the spread of Homo erectus?

c) Fire was one adaptation used by Homo erectus to survive. In addition to protection, warmth, and cooking, it also provided “community.” Explain how you think it brought people together.

d) Why is language important? Come up with a list of 5 words you think would have been present among early hunter-gatherers, and tell me why you think they would have used each word.

11) Homo sapiens

a) Why do you think scientists named our species Homo sapiens sapiens (wise wise human)?

b) **Label Olduvai Gorge (from number 8) on the map and draw and arrows from there**

tracing the migration of Homo sapiens out of Africa and eventually into the Americas.

c) Based on the lifestyle of early Homo sapiens, do you think it is possible they contributed to the die-off of large animals in North and South America? Why or why not?

12) Stone Age

a) Prehistoric cave art may have had religious purposes, or it could have been a form of information and/or communication. As populations grew in the Neolithic Age, why do you think people first developed an interest in writing? What purposes could it serve in their communities? Why were societies needs more complex than during the Paleolithic Age?

b) On a separate sheet, draw pictures, or series of smaller pictures that represent life in the Paleolithic Age and Neolithic Age. Use half the space for each age. You may use colored pencils. You can also use a Google search to get some ideas for what to draw.