ANSWER KEY

PALEOLITHIC VS. NEOLITHIC

When	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): About 3.3 million to 12,000 years ago (until about 10,000 BC). | Neolithic (New Stone Age): In Southwest Asia, about 9500 to 3000 BC (about 11,500 to 5,000 years ago).
How people got food	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): Hunting animals, fishing and gathering wild plants, nuts, seeds and shellfish. | Neolithic (New Stone Age): Farming wheat, barley, lentils and peas; herding sheep, goats, cattle and pigs.
Tools	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): Stone choppers, hand axes, blades and scrapers; bone needles; spear-throwers. | Neolithic (New Stone Age): Polished stone axes, grinding stones, clay pots and sharp obsidian blades.
Homes	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): Tents and huts of poles and hides, rock overhangs, mammoth-bone huts. | Neolithic (New Stone Age): Mud-brick houses in villages and towns, such as Jericho and Çatalhöyük.
Way of life	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): Moved camp with the seasons, in bands of about 25 to 50 people. | Neolithic (New Stone Age): Settled in one place all year; towns of thousands, like Çatalhöyük.
Art and beliefs	Paleolithic (Old Stone Age): Cave paintings, the Lion Man, bone flutes; some dead buried with ochre. | Neolithic (New Stone Age): Wall paintings of wild bulls at Çatalhöyük; the dead buried under house floors; some skulls at Jericho covered with plaster shaped like faces.

THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION

1	The Natufians settle down: They gathered so much wild grain, cutting it with flint sickles, that they could live in villages all year instead of moving camp with the seasons. They were still hunter-gatherers.
2	A cold, dry spell: Some scientists think the sudden cold, dry spell made wild food scarce, so settled people may have begun planting grain to be sure of food. Others are not sure.
3	The Ice Age ends: The world grew warmer and wetter. (Accept: the ice sheets melted and the sea rose.)
4	Wild grain grows thickly: In the Fertile Crescent, a curve of good land in Southwest Asia. People could gather plenty of grain close to home, so they could settle near it and later plant it.
5	More mouths to feed: Settled villages grew and had more mouths to feed. Wild plants and animals nearby might not be enough, so planting crops and raising herds gave more food from the same land.
Turning point	People in the Fertile Crescent begin to farm: Crops: wheat, barley, lentils, peas and flax (any two). Animals: sheep and goats, herded by about 8500 BC, then cattle and pigs (any two). The dog had been tamed much earlier.
Result 1	Jericho, by a spring in the Jordan Valley: settled about 9600 BC, with a stone wall and tower about 8300 BC. Or Çatalhöyük, about 7100-6000 BC: about 3,500 to 8,000 people in houses packed wall to wall, entered through the roof.
Result 2	Stored grain fed people through bad years, and some people had time for other work: making clay pots, weaving cloth, grinding polished stone axes and trading goods such as obsidian far away. More people could live in one place.
Result 3	Problems: hard farm work, disease in crowded villages, fights over land (any one). Later, the first cities grew in Mesopotamia by about 3500 BC, and writing began about 3200 BC.
Q1	Because it changed almost everything about how people lived: how they got food (farming and herding instead of hunting and gathering), where they lived (settled villages and towns instead of moving camps), what work they did, and how many people could live together. It led, much later, to cities and writing.
Q2	Answers will vary; grade the reasons. For farming: a surplus of stored food, settled homes, new jobs such as pottery and weaving, trade, more people. Against: farm work was hard, crowded villages spread disease, and neighbors fought over land, while hunter-gatherers in small bands moved freely and shared the work. Model: “Farming was better for a group in the long run because a surplus fed more people and led to towns, but at first many people worked harder and got sick more.”