**Chapter 1—First Peoples; First Farmers: Most of History in a Single Chapter, to 4000 B.C.E.**

**Seeking the Main Point**

**What arguments does this chapter make for paying serious attention to human history before the coming of civilization?**

***Download and save this document so you can return to it as you take notes and for studying.*** *As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind you of the arguments advanced for paying close attention to the earliest history of our species. If you do not find arguments offered for a section, then leave it blank. The question asks you to identify the arguments, but in preparation for completing this exercise take the opportunity to organize the points made by placing them in most important, important, and least important categories. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure to put quotations marks around the copied material; however, if you can think of a way to put it into your own words, you should do so.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **More Important** | **Important** | **Less Important** |
| **Out of Africa to the Ends of the Earth: First Migrations** |  |  |  |
| Into Eurasia |  |  |  |
| Into Australia |  |  |  |
| Into the Americas |  |  |  |
| Into the Pacific |  |  |  |
| **The Way We Were** |  |  |  |
| The First Human Societies |  |  |  |
| Economy and the Environment |  |  |  |
| The Realm of the Spirit |  |  |  |
| Settling Down: The Great Transition |  |  |  |
| **Breakthrough to Agriculture** |  |  |  |
| Common Patterns |  |  |  |
| Variations |  |  |  |
| **The Globalization of Agriculture** |  |  |  |
| Triumph and Resistance |  |  |  |
| The Culture of Agriculture |  |  |  |
| **Social Variation in the Age of Agriculture** |  |  |  |
| Pastoral Societies |  |  |  |
| Agricultural Village Societies |  |  |  |
| Chiefdoms |  |  |  |
| **Reflections: The Uses of the Paleolithic** |  |  |  |

*After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay that answers the question:*

**What important developments for the course of human history occurred during the Paleolithic and Neolithic periods?**

*Be sure to include an introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. Instead of just listing developments, use your ratings from more important to less important to help organize your thoughts. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.*