Homo Erectus, Upright Man
About 1.8 million–200,000 B.C.E.

Homo Sapiens Neanderthalensis, Neanderthal Man
About 230,000–30,000 B.C.E.

Homo erectus hominids in the Paleolithic Age discover how to use fire.

Homo sapiens neanderthalensis hominids make tools and live in groups.

Homo Sapiens Sapiens, Doubly Wise Man
About 150,000 B.C.E.–Today

Neolithic Age
About 8000–3000 B.C.E.

Homo sapiens sapiens create complex tools and art.

People learn how to domesticate animals and grow crops for food.
Timeline Challenge Cards

First Cities
About 4000 B.C.E.
Ancient Mesopotamians establish the city of Ur along the Euphrates River.

Sumerians Create City-States
About 3500–3000 B.C.E.
Sumerians use irrigation to provide a stable food supply, enabling villages to grow into powerful city-states.

Cuneiform
About 2400 B.C.E.
Sumerians develop a written language, called cuneiform, to record information about trade.

Akkadian Empire
About 2300–2100 B.C.E.
Akkadians build the world’s first empire in the Fertile Crescent region.
Code of Hammurabi
About 1792–1750 B.C.E.

King Hammurabi creates a code of laws to unify and preserve order in the Babylonian Empire.

Assyrian Empire
About 900–612 B.C.E.

Under Assyrian rule, the citizens of Mesopotamia obey their kings and gods.

Neo-Babylonian Empire
About 605–539 B.C.E.

The Neo-Babylonians make advances in the fields of mathematics and astronomy.