

DBQ: Life in 10,000 BCE

Directions: The following question is based on the accompanying Documents 1 – 5. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

Write an essay that:

- Has a relevant thesis and supports that thesis with evidence from the documents.
- Uses all of the documents.
- Analyzes the documents by grouping them in as many appropriate ways as possible. Do not simply summarize the documents individually.
- Takes into account the sources of the documents and analyzes the authors' points of view.
- Explains the need for at least one additional type of document.
- You may refer to relevant historical information not mentioned in the documents.

1. Using the documents, describe what life was like in pre-historical times.

Document 1

Source: Cave paintings, cave paintings of the San people, Southern Africa, about 12,000 BCE.



Document 2

Source: Elise Boulding, professor at the University of Colorado, from *The Underside of History*, 1976.

"Successful nomads have a much easier life than do farmers. Among the !Kung bushmen today, the men hunt for about four days a week and the women only need to work two-and-a-half days at gathering to feed their families amply for a week. Meat is a luxury item, and most of their nourishment comes from nuts and roots. The rest of their time is leisure, to be enjoyed in visiting, creating and carrying out rituals, and just living."

Document 3

Source: Nisa, a member of the !Kung people in the Kalahari Desert in Southern Africa, , from an interview by European anthropologist Marjorie Shostak, 1971.

I went gathering with my mother and father. As we were collecting mongongo nuts and klaru roots, my mother said, "Nisa, you need to take this man as your husband, this strong man who will get food, for you and for me to eat. A husband kills things and gives them to you; a husband works on things that become your things; a husband gets meat that is food for you to eat."

Document 4

Source: Female Goddess Carvings or "Venus Figures", made of stone and ivory, from Europe, Africa, & Asia, 25,000 – 10,000 BCE.



Document 5

Source: Left to Right: Spearhead made of stone (about 10 inches long), stone hand ax (weighs 4 pounds), bone spearhead (11 inches long), c. 17,000 BCE.



Document 6

Source: Natalie Angier, reporter for the New York Times, "Furs for Evening, But Cloth Was the Stone Age Standby", 1999.

"Paleolithic people knew how to create fine fabrics that very likely resembled linen. They designed string skirts, slug low on the hips or belted up on the waist, which artfully revealed at least as much as they concealed. They wove elaborate caps and hoodies for the head, and bandeaux (imagine a bra without cups) for their chests. With the invention of string and the power to weave, people could construct elaborate yet lightweight containers in which to carry, store, and cook food. They could fashion baby slings to secure an infant snugly against its mother's body, thereby freeing up the woman to work and wander. They could braid nets and lash together wooden logs to build a boat."