

Early Humans and the Rise of Civilization



**About 1.8 million B.C.E.–200,000 B.C.E.**

**Homo Erectus, Upright Man**  
*Homo erectus* hominids in the Paleolithic Age discover how to use fire.

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

*Homo sapiens neanderthalensis* hominids make tools and live in groups.



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



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



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



**About 2300–2100 B.C.E.**  
**Akkadian Empire**  
 Akkadians build the world's first empire in the Fertile Crescent region.

2,000,000 B.C.E.

1,500,000 B.C.E.

1,000,000 B.C.E.

500,000 B.C.E.

10,000 B.C.E. Today



**About 150,000 B.C.E.–Today**  
**Homo Sapiens Sapiens, Doubly Wise Man**  
*Homo sapiens sapiens* create complex tools and art.



**About 8000–3000 B.C.E.**  
**Neolithic Age**  
 People learn how to domesticate animals and grow crops for food.

10,000 B.C.E. 8000 B.C.E. 6000 B.C.E. 4000 B.C.E. 2000 B.C.E. Today

**Homo Sapiens Sapiens**



**About 1792–1750 B.C.E.**  
**Code of Hammurabi**  
 King Hammurabi creates a code of laws to unify and preserve order in the Babylonian Empire.



**About 900–612 B.C.E.**  
**Assyrian Empire**  
 Under Assyrian rule, the citizens of Mesopotamia obey their kings and gods.



**About 605–539 B.C.E.**  
**Neo-Babylonian Empire**  
 The Neo-Babylonians make advances in the fields of mathematics and astronomy.