ERAS OF WORLD HISTORY

1. **Hunter/Gatherer Era- (200,000 - 8,000 B.C.)**
   
   Humans used speech and tools, lived a nomadic life, and spread out from Africa to the rest of the world.

   This time period is sometimes called the Paleolithic age (paleo means old and lithic means stone) because it was a time when humans made and used stone tools.

2. **Neolithic Era - (8,000 - 3,500 B.C.)**
   
   Humans learned to domesticate plants and animals and many people settled down to live a farming life in small villages. Others became herders of sheep, goats, cattle and horses. (Neolithic means new stone age because tools were more and more refined.)

3. **Dawn of Civilization - (3,500 - 500 B.C.)**
   
   The 4 river-valley civilizations - Mesopotamia, Egypt, Harrapan, and Chinese - developed with cities, monumental architecture, written language, social classes and monarchs. Trade networks were established.

4. **Classical Age - (500 B.C. - 500 A.D.)**
   
   A time of spiritual creativity in all of the civilizations. New religions emerged (Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism and Islam). Empires of this time were large (Han, Gupta, and Roman) and technology (iron axes and plows) enabled expansion. Migration, trade and cultural contact expanded.

5. **Era of Expanding Zones of Cultural Exchange and Encounter (500 -1500 A.D.)**
   
   The major civilizations extended their technology, religions, and their high cultures to their neighbors. Chinese culture expanded and greatly influenced Japan, Korea, and Viet-Nam. Roman culture influenced the "barbarian" Germanic tribes of what is now Europe, and Islamic culture spread from Spain to Indonesia.

6. **Age of Global History (1500 A.D. - Present)**
   
   Europe created colonies around the world, a process which began the true interconnectedness of the entire world. De-colonization occurred in the 20th century- a process which led to scores of independent countries.

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1 Nash, Gary, National Standards for History, National Center for History in Schools, UCLA, 1996

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