THE LAST 100,000 YEARS

100,000 YEARS AGO:
We hold burials and create tools to capture prey that runs faster than we do.

40,000–50,000 YEARS AGO:
Humans have migrated far enough from Africa to settle in Europe and Australia.

77,000 YEARS AGO:
The first evidence appears that shows we are making marks in objects to count or record information.

35,000 YEARS AGO:
Music to our ears! Basic three-holed flutes provide entertainment and culture. We also continue drawing.
30,000–23,000 YEARS AGO:
We begin using needles made from bone to sew clothes that fit us better.

8,000 YEARS AGO:
The first written documents are created from symbols. During the next few thousand years, symbols will be replaced with words.

OOF!
IT SAYS, “TURN LEFT AT THE BIG ROCK”!
NO, IT SAYS, “LOOK OUT FOR BEARS”!

9,000 YEARS AGO:
We start domesticating plants and animals, which leads to sedentary communities.

55–15 YEARS AGO:
Human population doubles in just 40 years, from 3 billion to 6 billion people.
Roman cities across the empire were known for their public city centers, called FORUMS. They were places where Roman citizens would meet to trade goods, visit religious temples, vote for political leaders, celebrate military achievements, and meet up with their friends. The largest forum in Rome was called the FORUM ROMANUM.
The first Roman emperor, Augustus, wanted to make Rome the most beautiful city in the world. So, starting in 26 BCE, he built elaborate, expensive temples, basilicas, and arches in the Roman Forum. But, by 476 CE, the Roman Empire had officially fallen and the Roman people and invaders took precious stones and metal from the buildings to construct new ones. During the Middle Ages, the Romans forgot what the Roman Forum was used for and it became a cow field! They called it the *Campo Vaccino*. In the 19th century, archeologists excavated the Roman Forum and restored the ruins to reflect their former glory.
1502: **AMERIGO VESPUCCI**, an Italian who made voyages for Spain, sailed along the coast of South America. He was one of the first guys to realize he wasn’t in Asia, so a German mapmaker labeled the new land “America” in his honor.

1513: **VASCO NEZ DE BALBOA** hiked across Panama and was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean by heading west.
1520: FERDINAND MAGELLAN, a Portuguese man sailing on behalf of Spain, reached the tip of South America. He died on the trip, but his ships returned in 1522 as the first crew to **CIRCUMNAVIGATE** the earth.

**CIRCUMNAVIGATE**
sail around; “circum-” like a circle
Why Europeans Sought Colonies and Territories

European explorers sought “gold, glory, and God” in their first voyages across the sea to the East and the Americas. In the era of imperialism, which began in the early nineteenth century, European nations sought to conquer and claim foreign lands. These lands were seen as resources for raw materials that European countries needed to industrialize.
It was a time of great competition: If one country claimed land for a certain resource (like sugarcane or rubber) it could dominate the market and make all the profit. If it could find new markets in other lands to buy its own goods, the country would be even more powerful.

If a European country was overpopulated, it could just ship off some citizens to colonies in Asia or Africa or wherever its colonies were. Europeans were convinced that if they wanted to profit and be competitive in a growing world, imperialism was the way to go.

Many countries fell to imperial rule in the nineteenth and part of the twentieth centuries, often at the expense of people indigenous to the land. Just as the Mayans, Incas, Aztecs, Iroquois, and other Native Americans suffered at the hands of foreign rulers, imperialism was destructive to many cultures.
Meanwhile, in the U.S., **missionaries** were among the first to travel across the rest of the North American continent along the Oregon Trail. Their reports of the beautiful land of the West encouraged others to follow. They believed that American expansion to the Pacific coast was part of **manifest destiny**: the idea that the U.S. was chosen by God to spread across the continent and that the expansion of the U.S. was the people’s “manifest,” or obvious, destiny.

**BRITAIN ESTABLISHES TRADE with INDIA**

In 1600, the British set up a monopoly on trade with India by establishing and expanding the **East India Company**. The opium that was sent to China was grown in India through the East India Company. The British bought spices, tea, cotton, and more from India in exchange for silver for roughly two hundred years. The French and Dutch also traded with India, but eventually control fell completely to Britain and the East India Company.
The exact cause of World War I (WWI), initially called the Great War, is hard to pinpoint. Peace in Europe was so fragile that anything could have set off a conflict—it was a powder keg waiting for a spark from:

**NATIONALISM**
- A reinvigorated sense of patriotism
- Countries wanted to prove their might
- Ethnic groups wanted to form their own nations

**IMPERIALISM**
- Especially in Africa

**MILITARISM**
- An arms race was happening.

**ALLIANCES**
- **THE TRIPLE ALLIANCE:** Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy
- **THE TRIPLE ENTENTE:** Great Britain, France, and Russia
- **ENTENTE** an understanding or agreement
The **NATIONALISM** overtaking Europe played a big part in the road to World War I. Each country was proud of its culture, especially newly independent countries like Greece, Romania, and Serbia, which are all in the **BALKANS**, a region of southeastern Europe. Bosnia wanted to break away from Austria-Hungary. The Irish in the British Empire, the Armenians in Turkey, and the Polish in the Russian Empire faced similar struggles.

The surge of **IMPERIALISM** throughout Europe and imperialist rivalries was another big factor. Countries fought for foreign colonies.

Increasing **MILITARISM** also made countries ready to do battle. Industrialization created new materials for warfare and resulted in an arms race. Many European countries were forging **ALLIANCES**—basically picking teams and promising to have each other’s backs if things got rough. The two major European alliances in 1914 were:
the TRIPLE ENTENTE: Russia, Great Britain, and France

the TRIPLE ALLIANCE: Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy

When one country went to war, the others followed. (My team and all my team’s friends versus your team and all your team’s friends.)