EARLY HUMAN DBQ

Historical Context:

The earliest people in prehistory were hunter-gatherers. They lived in small groups that moved from place to place, collecting berries, nuts and plants and hunting animals. Hunter-gatherers did not move on every day or even every week. They generally followed the migration patterns of the animals they hunted; if there animals moved, they moved, too. They had several temporary camping places, where they spent weeks or months but they had no permanent, settled homes. Because they moved around, they had to be adaptable, which means they need to be able to adjust or change according to the conditions surrounding them.

Task:

For Part A, read/preview each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document. You must answer the questions in complete sentences. (Some of them have been started for you.)

For Part B, use your answers from Part A, information from the documents, and your knowledge of social studies to write an organized essay answering the question:

What was life like for prehistoric man?
Part A: Document Analysis

DOCUMENT #1

1. What animals are shown in the cave painting?
   *The animals shown in the cave painting are…*

2. What tools are the people using in the picture?
   *The tools being used in the painting are…*

3. What does the presence of art tell us about a culture?

Figure 1: Cave painting found in Lascaux, France. Paintings are believed to have been made 16,000 years ago.
4. What were three types of materials that early man used to make tools? Why did early man make tools from these materials?

5. What were three types of tools that early man made? For what were these tools used?

One type of tool that early man made was ________________________________. It was used for…
Figure 3 (on left): Scientists believe that the skeleton above was a boy around 18 years old. He was buried wearing a cap and necklace made of shells.

Figure 4 (on right): The two skeletons here were found in a Paleolithic burial site in Italy.

6. What do these images suggest to you about the culture of these people?
“...The Ice Ages required a change in the way man could live. They forced him to depend less on plants and more on animals. The dangers of hunting on the edge of the ice also changed the ways early man hunted. It no longer made sense to stalk single animals, even if they were quite large. The better alternative was to follow herds — to learn and adopt their habits, including their wandering migrations. This meant places they settled were set by the food animal.”

Source: Jacob Bronowski, The Ascent of Man, Little, Brown and Company

7. Based on this document, what is one trait of early man? How do you know this?
8. What were two ways that early man used animals?

9. What was one job of the women?