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B1

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Spodek Chapter 1 Vocabulary

1. **paleoanthropologists-** students of early humans and the setting in which they lived
2. **castes-** social, economic, and ritual positions inherited at birth
3. **teleology-** the philosophical study of final causes; has been used to provide evidence for the existence of God
4. **homo erectus-** the most widespread of all prehistoric hominids, and the most similar to humans. Evolved abt. 2 mil. yrs. ago; became extinct 100,000 yrs. Ago (the upright human)
5. **Toumai-** the oldest pre-human fossil discovered by a team of paleoanthropologists in Chad, Africa; 2001
6. **paradigm-** a model of reality representing one viewpoint
7. **radio carbon dating-** a method of dating artifacts by measuring their radioactive carbon
8. **exogamy-** the practice by which a person is compelled to choose a marital partner outside his or her group or clan
9. **endogamy-** the choice of a marital partner from with in a person’s group or clan
10. **shaman-** in the religious beliefs of some Asian and American tribal societies, a person capable of entering into trances and believed to be endowed with supernatural powers, with the ability to cure the sick, find lost or stolen property, predict the future, and protect the community from evil spirits; may act as judge/ruler, as priest shaman directs communal sacrifices, escorts souls of the dead to next world