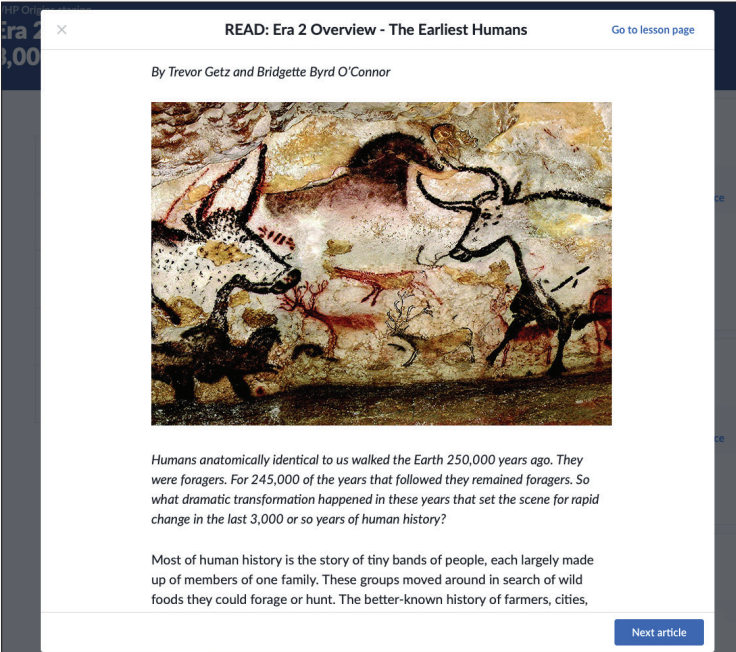



## The Three Close Reads Process

In the World History Project, we use the Three Close Reads process for all readings in the course. While reading everything in the course three times might seem like a lot, it's a very helpful tool for getting all the information from the articles. And you don't actually read everything three times—it's more like two and a quarter reads since the first round is a skim. Also, you will get faster and faster with each reading, and somewhere in the middle of the course you will notice that the three reads take the same amount of time that one used to take.



READ: Era 2 Overview - The Earliest Humans [Go to lesson page](#)

By Trevor Getz and Bridgette Byrd O'Connor



*Humans anatomically identical to us walked the Earth 250,000 years ago. They were foragers. For 245,000 of the years that followed they remained foragers. So what dramatic transformation happened in these years that set the scene for rapid change in the last 3,000 or so years of human history?*

Most of human history is the story of tiny bands of people, each largely made up of members of one family. These groups moved around in search of wild foods they could forage or hunt. The better-known history of farmers, cities,

[Next article](#)

Here's how it works:

### First Read — Preview and Skimming for Gist

The first close read is really meant to be a skim of the article. It should be very quick and give you the gist (general idea) of what the article is about. You should be looking at the title, author, headings, pictures, and opening sentences of paragraphs for the gist.

### Second Read — Key Ideas and Understanding Content

The second read is probably closest to the kind of reading you usually do. Basically, you are trying to get a better understanding of the concepts and arguments that are presented in the article. Review the questions so you know what to think about when reading, in addition to making sure you understand the information from the article. Also, this is a great time to write down any vocab you see in the article that is unfamiliar to you. Keep a journal of all the words you are learning!

### Third Read — Evaluating and Corroborating

Now it's time for the third and final read. For this read, focus on why this article matters, how it connects to other content you've studied. Since this is the first reading assignment of the course, you may not connect it to much other than the knowledge you already have.