**The Nature of Religion**

The history of religion refers to the written record of human religious experiences and ideas. This period of religious history begins with the invention of writing about 5,000 years ago (3000 BCE) in the Near East. The prehistory of religion relates to a study of religious beliefs that existed prior to the advent of written records.  
The earliest evidence of religious ideas dates back several hundred thousand years to the Middle and Lower Palaeolithic periods. Archaeologists refer to apparent intentional burials of early homo sapiens from as early as 300,000 years ago as evidence of religious ideas.

Using the chart below summarise the key developments of religion that occur within each historical phase. Please make sure you include the key dates, places, figures, religious beliefs and customs. This information can be found at http://www.religionsociety.net/the-nature-of-religion.html

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| Neolithic Age | Axial Age |
| Middle Ages | Modern Period |