Big History Video: World of Weapons

1. How do animals kill their prey?
2. What disadvantage did humans have physically versus animals when it comes to hunting?
3. What did humans do to improve their ability to hunt?
4. What was the “energy source” for early projectile weapons?
5. What happened in 850 CE in China?
6. What is an alchemist?
7. How was gunpowder discovered?
8. What causes gunpowder to work (explode and push out a projectile like a bullet)?
9. Why was it discovered in China?
10. Where does saltpeter (potassium nitrate) come from? What’s it source?
11. What makes China the ideal place for saltpeter to develop?
12. How did gunpowder spread in Afroeurasia?
13. What is our “greatest weapon”? (hint - not something we make) What makes humans unique over all animals (in regards to hunting)?
14. How did the growth of grasslands 7 million years ago cause the evolution of humans and their ability to throw? (PHYSICAL changes; WHY did primates evolve; HOW did they evolve)
15. What makes the flexible wrist and increased range of motion in our shoulders special?
16. What happened in Crecy, France in 1346? Who was this between (100 Years War)?
17. Who won the battle there?
18. How did they win? What were the odds?
19. What was the advantage of the longbow?
20. What is the longbow made of?
21. Why was the yew tree perfect for the longbow?
22. What was the next “superior weapon”? (1347 Europe)
23. What were the disadvantages of the longbow and the yew tree?
24. Why did the Europeans switch to gunpowder? What are its advantages?
25. Why do we call our constant need for improved weapons an “arms race”?