

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 1 Hunter-Gatherers

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do people adapt to their environment?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *What was life like during the Paleolithic Age?*
2. *How did people adapt to survive during the ice ages?*

Terms to Know

Paleolithic the early part of human history, also known as the Old Stone Age

nomads people who move from place to place to survive

technology the use of new ideas and tools to do work

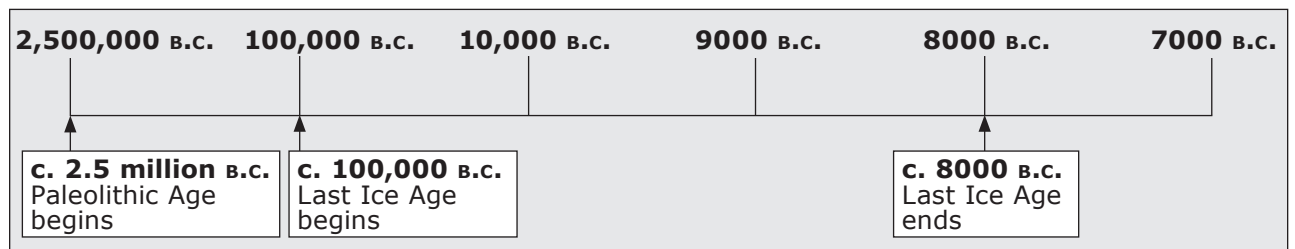
ice ages long periods of extreme cold on Earth

Where in the world?



Historians have found evidence of human activity dating from Paleolithic times at each of these sites.

When did it happen?



Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 1 Hunter-Gatherers, *Continued*

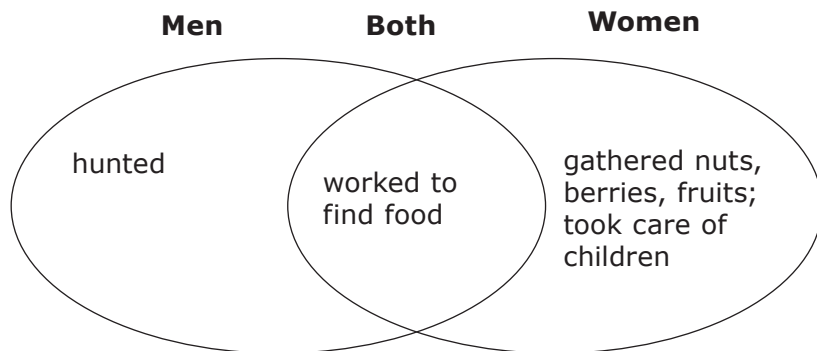
The Paleolithic Age

The early period of human history is called the Stone Age. That’s when people made tools and weapons from stone. The earliest part of the Stone Age is the **Paleolithic** Age. The Paleolithic Age began about 2.5 million years ago. It lasted until about 8000 B.C.

The first humans spent most of their time looking for food. They hunted animals and gathered, or collected, plants, nuts, and berries. For this reason, early people are known as “hunter-gatherers.” Early people moved from place to place looking for food. People who move from place to place in order to survive are called **nomads**.

In the Paleolithic Age, men hunted the large animals. They learned how animals behaved. They learned the best way to hunt them. At first, men used clubs to kill the animals. They also drove animals over the edge of cliffs. Over time, Paleolithic people created better tools and weapons. These new traps and spears made hunting easier.

Paleolithic women spent most of their time looking for food. They gathered berries, nuts, and grains from woods and meadows. They also took care of the children.



Technology is the use of new ideas and tools to do work. Technology was first used by Paleolithic people. They made tools and weapons from flint. Flint is a hard stone with sharp edges. Paleolithic people made sharp knives and ax heads from flint.

Paleolithic people were able to adapt, or change, in order to survive. They lived in caves that protected them from bad weather and from wild animals. In places where it was cold, they made clothes from animal skins.

? Connecting to Today

1. The Stone Age gets its name from the type of tools people used. What do you think people in the future will call our time period?

Marking the Text

2. Circle the foods that early people ate.

Marking the Text

3. Underline two ways that Paleolithic people adapted.

Marking the Text

4. Circle two tools that Paleolithic people made using flint.

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 1 Hunter-Gatherers, *Continued*

Reading Check

5. Why was fire important for Paleolithic people?

Marking the Text

6. Underline the sentence that tells why the development of spoken language was so important.

Connecting to Today

7. The ice ages are an example of climate change. Where else have you heard about climate change?

During the Paleolithic Age, people learned how to make fire. Can you imagine how hard life was before that? Once people had fire, they could eat cooked food. They had light at night. Fire also provided warmth and scared away wild animals.

Early people probably made fire by creating friction. They rubbed two pieces of wood together until the wood became so hot it caught on fire. They also started fires by hitting one stone against another. This would create a spark that could set dry grass or leaves on fire.

Other advancements took place during the Paleolithic Age. During this time, people developed spoken language. Before this, humans communicated through sounds and hand motions. Spoken language made it easier for people to work together. Just like language today, the language of early people was constantly growing and changing. Just like today, new ideas and new technology required new words.

Early people expressed their ideas through language. They also expressed themselves through art. Early artists painted the walls of their caves with paints made from crushed rock mixed with animal fat. Early cave paintings show animals in bright colors.

Paleolithic Age Achievements

- Improved technology
- Flint tools and weapons
- Animal skin clothes
- Ability to make fire
- Spoken language
- Cave art

The Ice Ages

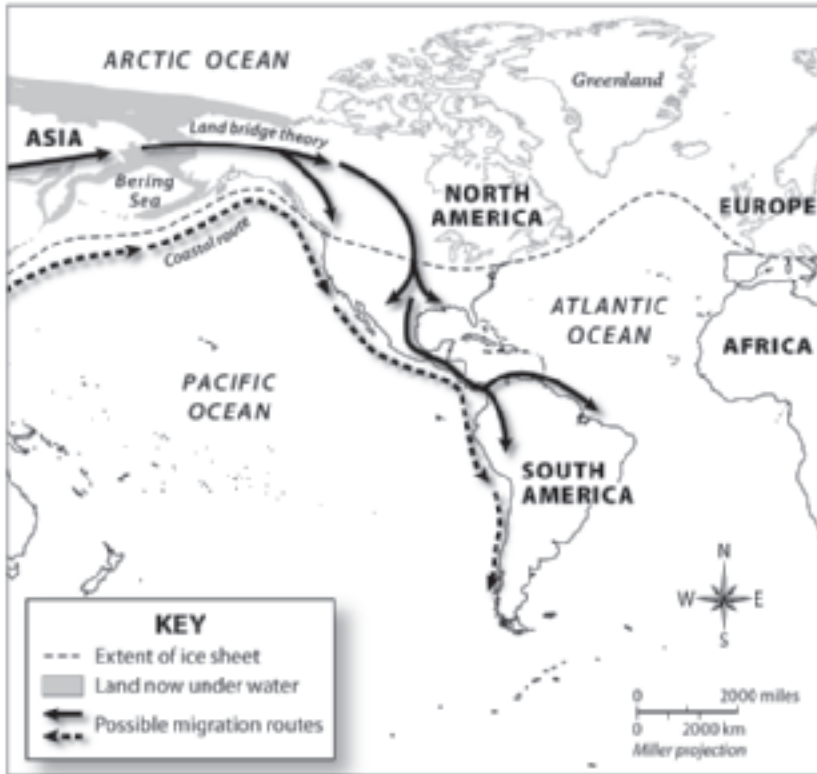
About 100,000 B.C. Earth began to get very cold. Thick sheets of ice moved across much of the land. Early people had to adapt, or change, if they were to survive. This was the beginning of Earth's most recent Ice Age. **Ice ages** are long periods of extreme cold on Earth.

During the ice ages, more and more ice formed on the Earth. The levels of the oceans dropped because so much water was taken from the oceans to form the ice. Land that was once covered by water was now above it. One place this happened was between Asia and North America.

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 1 Hunter-Gatherers, *Continued*

During the ice ages, a land bridge connected the two land masses. A land bridge is a strip of dry land that was once covered by water. People could now walk from Asia into the Americas.



Reading Check

8. How were land bridges formed?



9. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Stone Age*. Label the two tabs—*Food* and *Shelter*. On both sides of the Foldable tabs, write words and phrases that you remember about each title. Use your notes to help you answer the questions under the tabs.

Check for Understanding

Why were the first people nomads?

1. _____

List two advancements of the Paleolithic Age, and tell how each one made life easier for early humans.

2. _____

3. _____