

Section

1

Early Humans

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

Today people live in towns and cities of various sizes and make their living in different ways. Read to find out how early humans lived by moving from place to place, forming settlements, and exploring different ways to provide for themselves and their families.

Focusing on the Main Idea

- Paleolithic people adapted to their environment and invented many tools to help them survive. (page 9)
- In the Neolithic Age, people started farming, building communities, producing goods, and trading. (page 12)

Locating Places

Jericho (JEHR•ih•KOH)

Çatal Hüyük (chah•YU•k hoo•YOOK)

Building Your Vocabulary

historian (hĭh•STOHR•ee•uhn)

archaeologist

(ahr•kee•AH•luh•jĭst)

artifact (ahr•tĭf•ĭkĭt)

fossil (fah•suhl)

anthropologist

(an•thruh•PAH•luh•jĭst)

nomad (NOH•MAH)

technology (teh•k•NAH•luh•jee)

domesticate (duh•MEHS•tĭf•ĭkĭt)

specialization

(speh•shuhl•luh•ZAY•shuhn)

Reading Strategy

Determine Cause and Effect Draw a diagram like the one below. Use it to explain how early humans adapted to their environment.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC When & Where?



8000 B.C. 6000 B.C. 4000 B.C. 2000 B.C.

c. 8000 B.C.
Jericho
founded

c. 6700 B.C.
Çatal Hüyük
settled

c. 3000 B.C.
Bronze Age
begins

Early Humans

Main Idea Paleolithic people adapted to their environment and invented many tools to help them survive.

Reading Focus What do you view as the greatest human achievement? Sending people to the moon, perhaps, or inventing the computer? Read to learn about the accomplishments of people during the Paleolithic Age.

History is the story of humans in the past. It tells what they did and what happened to them. **Historians** (hĭh•STOHR•ee•uhns) are people who study and write about the human past. They tell us that history began about 5,500 years ago, when people first began to write. But the story of people really begins in prehistory—the time before people developed writing.

Tools of Discovery What we know about the earliest people comes from the things they left behind. Scientists have worked to uncover clues about early human life.

Archaeologists (AR•kee•AH•luh•jĭsts) hunt for evidence buried in the ground where settlements might once have been. They dig up and study **artifacts** (AHR•tĭh•wĕkts)—weapons, tools, and other things made by humans. They also look for **fossils** (FAH•suhls)—traces of plants or animals that have been preserved in rock.

Anthropologists (AN•thruh•PAH•luh•jĭsts) focus on human society. They study how humans developed and how they related to one another.

Historians call the early period of human history the Stone Age. The name comes from the fact that people during this time used stone to make tools and weapons.

Archaeological Dig



Primary Source Paleolithic Cave Paintings

The oldest examples of Paleolithic art are cave paintings found in Spain and France. Most of the paintings are of animals. The paintings show that Paleolithic artists often used several colors and techniques. They sometimes used the uneven surface of the rock to create a three-dimensional effect.



▲ Painting of bison in Spanish cave

DBQ Document-Based Question

What does this cave painting tell us about life in the Paleolithic Age?

The earliest part of the period is the Paleolithic or Old Stone Age. Paleolithic means “old stone” in the Greek language. Paleolithic times began roughly 2.5 million years ago and lasted until around 8000 B.C.

Who Were the Hunter-Gatherers? Try to imagine the world during the Stone Age, long before any roadways, farms, or villages existed. Early humans spent most of their time searching for food. They hunted animals, caught fish, ate insects, and gathered nuts, berries, fruits, grains, and plants.

Because they hunted and gathered, Paleolithic people were always on the move. They were **nomads** (NOH • MEES), or people

who regularly move from place to place. They traveled in bands of 30 or so members because it was safer and made the search for food easier.

Men and women did different tasks within the group. Women stayed close to the campsite, which was typically near a stream or other water source. They looked after the children and searched nearby woods and meadows for berries, nuts, and grains.

Men hunted animals—an activity that sometimes took them far from camp. They had to learn the habits of animals and make tools for the kill. At first, they used clubs or drove the animals off cliffs. Over time, Paleolithic people invented spears, traps, and bows and arrows.

Adapting to the Environment The way that Paleolithic people lived depended on where they lived. Those in warm climates needed little clothing or shelter. People in cold climates sought protection from the weather in caves. Over time, Paleolithic people created new kinds of shelter. The most common was probably made of animal hides held up by wooden poles.

Paleolithic people made a life-changing discovery when they learned to tame fire. Fire gave warmth to those gathered around it. It lit the darkness and scared away wild animals. Food cooked over the fire tasted better and was easier to digest. In addition, smoked meat could be kept longer.

Archaeologists believe that early humans started fires by rubbing two pieces of wood together. Paleolithic people later made drill-like wooden tools to start fires.

What Were the Ice Ages? Fire was a key to the survival of Paleolithic people during the Ice Ages. These were long periods of extreme cold. The last Ice Age began about 100,000 B.C. From then until about 8000 B.C.,

thick ice sheets covered parts of Europe, Asia, and North America.

The Ice Age was a threat to human life. People risked death from the cold and also from hunger. Early humans had to adapt by changing their diet, building sturdier shelters, and using animal furs to make warm clothing. The mastery of fire helped people live in this environment.

Language, Art, and Religion Another advance in Paleolithic times was the development of spoken language. Language made it far easier for people to work together and to pass on knowledge.

Early people expressed themselves not only in words but in art. They crushed yellow, black, and red rocks to make powders for paint. Then they dabbed this on cave walls, creating scenes of lions, oxen, panthers, and other animals.

Historians are not sure why these cave paintings were created. They may have had religious meaning. Early people also might have thought that painting an animal would bring good luck in the hunt.

The Invention of Tools Paleolithic people were the first to use **technology** (teh•NAH•luh•jee)—tools and methods to help humans perform tasks. People often used a hard stone called flint to make tools. By hitting flint with a hard stone, they could make it flake into pieces with very sharp edges. To make hand axes or hunting spears, they tied wooden poles to pieces of flint that were the right shape for the tool.

Over time, early people grew more skilled at making tools. They crafted smaller and sharper tools, such as fishhooks and needles made from animal bones. They used needles to make nets and baskets and to sew hides together for clothing.

Reading Check Contrast How are fossils and artifacts different?



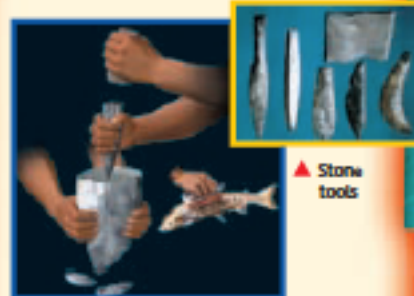
The Way It Was

Science and Inventions

Tools One of the most important advances of prehistoric people was the creation of stone tools. Tools made hunting, gathering, building shelter, and making clothing much easier.

The first tools were made of stones. Early humans quickly learned that grinding, breaking, and shaping the stones to create sharp edges made them more useful.

As technology advanced, people began making specific tools such as food choppers, meat scrapers, and spear points. In time, people learned that hitting a stone in a particular way would produce a flake—a long, sharp chip. Flakes were similar to knives in the way they were used.



▲ Stone tools

▲ Flaking tools from a larger stone

Connecting to the Past

1. Why do you think early people chose stones to make their first tools?
2. How were flakes created?

C
S

I

H
O

C
c
r
V
c
B
a
t
i
l
c
d

A
1.

2.



An
pla
are
thi

Neolithic Times

Main Idea In the Neolithic Age, people started farming, building communities, producing goods, and trading.

Reading Focus Did you know that, today, more than a third of the world's people work in agriculture? Read to learn how farming began and how it changed the world.

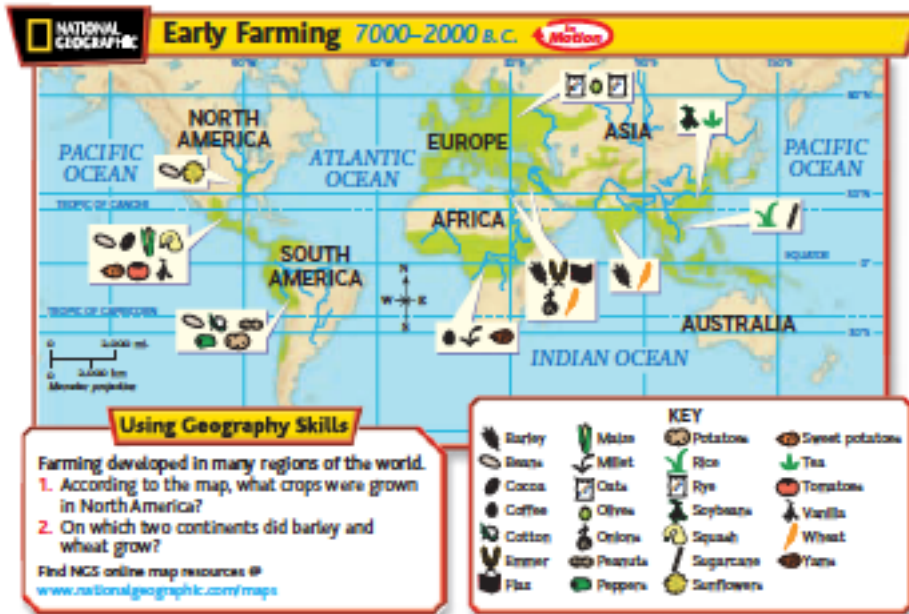
After the last Ice Age ended, people began to change their way of life. They began to **domesticate** (duh • MEHS • tuh • uwt), or tame animals and plants for human use. Animals provided meat, milk, and wool. They also carried goods and pulled carts.

In addition, people also learned how to grow food. For the first time, people could stay in one place to grow grains and vegetables. Gradually, farming replaced hunting and gathering.



This change in the way people lived marked the beginning of the Neolithic Age, or New Stone Age, which began about 8000 B.C. and lasted until about 4000 B.C.

Why Was Farming Important? Historians call the changes in the Neolithic Age the farming revolution. The word *revolution* refers to changes that greatly affect many areas of life. Some historians consider the farming revolution the most important event in human history.

Farming did not begin in one region and spread. People in different parts of the world discovered how to grow crops at about the same time. In Asia, people grew wheat, barley, rice, soybeans, and a grain called millet. In Mexico, farmers grew corn, squash, and potatoes. In Africa, they grew millet and a grain called sorghum.



Comparing the Neolithic and Paleolithic Ages

	Paleolithic Age	Neolithic Age
		
Description of Art and Crafts	Paleolithic people painted cave walls. They usually painted animals.	Neolithic people made pottery and carved objects out of wood. They also built shelters and tombs.
How Humans Obtained Food	People hunted animals and gathered nuts, berries, and grains.	People began to farm in permanent villages. They continued to raise and herd animals.
How Humans Adapted	People learned to make fire, created a language, and made simple tools and shelters.	People built mud-brick houses and places of worship. They specialized in certain jobs and used copper and bronze to create more useful tools.
Work of Women and Men	Women gathered food and cared for children. Men hunted.	Women cared for children and performed household tasks. Men herded, farmed, and protected the village.

Understanding Charts

Humans made great advances from the Paleolithic Age to the Neolithic Age.

1. How did the work of men change from the Paleolithic Age to the Neolithic Age?
2. **Describe** What advances were made in toolmaking between the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages?

The Growth of Villages People who farmed could settle in one place. Herders remained nomadic and drove their animals wherever they could find grazing land. Farmers, however, had to stay close to their fields to water the plants, keep hungry animals away, and harvest their crops. They began to live in villages, where they built permanent homes.

During the Neolithic Age, villages were started in Europe, India, Egypt, China, and

Mexico. The earliest known communities have been found in the Middle East. One of the oldest is **Jericho** (JEHR•ih•koh) in the West Bank between what are now Israel and Jordan. This city dates back to about 8000 B.C.

Another well-known Neolithic community is **Çatal Hüyük** (chah•TAHL hoo•YOOK) in present-day Turkey. Little of it remains, but it was home to some 6,000 people between about 6700 B.C. and 5700 B.C. They lived in simple mud-brick houses that were packed tightly together and decorated inside with wall paintings. They used other buildings as places of worship. Along with farming, the people hunted, raised sheep and goats, and ate fish and bird eggs from nearby marshes.

The Benefits of a Settled Life The shift to settled life brought Neolithic people greater security than they had ever known. Steady food supplies meant healthy, growing populations. With a bigger population, there were more workers to produce a bigger crop.

Because villagers produced more than enough to eat, they began to trade their extra foodstuffs. They traded with people in their own communities and also with people who lived in other areas.

People began to practice **specialization** (*spee•shuh•luh•ZAY•shuhn*), or the development of different kinds of jobs. Because not everyone was needed for farming, some people had the time to develop other types of skills. They made pottery from clay to store their grain and other foods. They used plant fibers to make mats and to weave

cloth. These craftspeople, like farmers, also took part in trade. They exchanged the things they made for goods they did not have.

In late Neolithic times, people continued to make advances. Toolmakers created better farming tools, such as the sickle for cutting grain. In some places, people began to work with metals. At first they used copper. They heated rocks to melt the copper inside and then poured it into molds for tools and weapons.

After 4000 B.C., craftspeople in western Asia mixed copper and tin to form bronze. Bronze was harder and longer lasting than copper. It became widely used between 3000 B.C. and 1200 B.C., the period known as the Bronze Age.

Reading Check Compare How did the Paleolithic and Neolithic Ages differ?

Section 1 Review

History **Online**

Study Central™ Need help with the material in this section? Visit jgl.garcoo.com

Reading Summary

Review the **Main Ideas**

- Early humans were nomads who moved around to hunt animals and gather food. They built shelters and used fire to survive. In time, they developed language and art.
- During the farming revolution, people began to grow crops and domesticate animals, which allowed them to settle in villages.

What Did You Learn?

1. Who are archaeologists and what do they study?
2. How did domesticating animals help the Neolithic people?
4. **Explain** Why were Paleolithic people nomads?
5. **Compare** Compare the technology of the Paleolithic Age with that of the Neolithic Age.
6. **Analyze** Why was the ability to make a fire so important?
7. **Previewing** Create a three-column chart. In the first column, write what you knew about early humans before you read this section. In the second column, write what you learned after reading. In the third, write what you still would like to know.

Critical Thinking

3. **Determine Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram like the one below. List some of the effects that farming had on people's lives.

