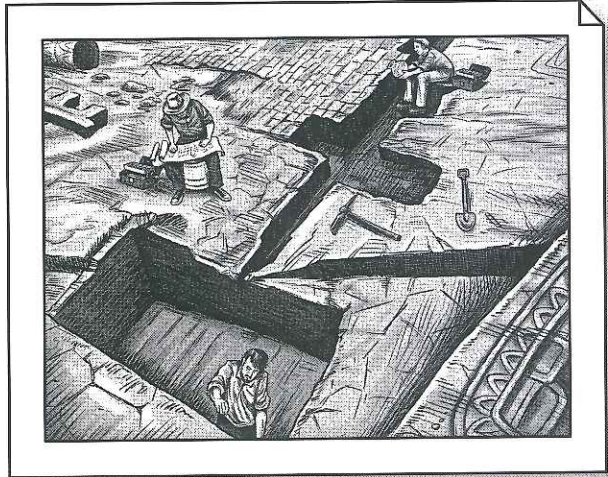


The Beginning of Civilization

The first modern humans appeared in Africa and had migrated all over the world by 10,000 B.C. Because prehistoric people had no written records, historians must study them by looking at the things they left behind. Archaeologists dig up artifacts like tools, pottery, and other things made by humans. Anthropologists use artifacts and remains of ancient humans to learn about culture, or the way people lived. Historians divide early human history into major sections like the Paleolithic Age, the Neolithic Age, and the Bronze Age. Each era is defined by the progress humans made during those years.



The earliest period of human history, called the Paleolithic Age, lasted from about 2,500,000 B.C. until 8000 B.C. This era is sometimes called the Old Stone Age because early humans used simple stone tools. During the Paleolithic Age, people found shelter in caves and learned to make fire. Paleolithic people invented the spear and the bow and arrow. These early humans hunted wild animals and gathered nuts, berries, fruits, and green plants for food. Because they depended on animal migrations and vegetation cycles, almost all Paleolithic people were nomadic. This means the hunters and their families had no permanent home, but moved from place to place.

Around 8000 B.C., the Neolithic Age, or New Stone Age, started. In the Neolithic Age, humans stopped being nomadic and settled down in small farming villages. Instead of hunting and gathering, people farmed and raised animals for food. Early farmers in Africa raised wheat, barley, root crops, and bananas. People tamed cows, pigs, goats, sheep, and dogs. In Southeast Asia, farmers grew rice in addition to wheat and barley. In Central America and present-day Mexico, people raised beans, squash, and corn.

People made tools from metal in the Bronze Age. During the Bronze Age, which lasted from 3000 B.C. until about 1000 B.C., people began to form civilizations. Civilizations are complex cultures in which groups of many people share the same characteristics. The first civilizations started in the river valleys of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.

Historians know more about the Bronze Age civilizations than about earlier people. This is because people in the Bronze Age kept written records, like laws. Each civilization had cities, government, social classes, religion, writing, and art. Over time, cultures have changed, but the basic characteristics of civilization have stayed the same.



The Beginning of Civilization

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

☐

1. _____ dig up artifacts like tools and pottery.

A. Archaeologists
B. Anthropologists
C. Historians
D. Nomads

☐

2. People made tools from _____ in the Bronze Age.

A. stone
B. metal
C. wood
D. vines

☐

3. In the _____, humans settled in small farming villages.

A. Ice Age
B. Paleolithic Age
C. Neolithic Age
D. Bronze Age

☐

4. _____ is a characteristic of civilization.

A. Government
B. Writing
C. Religion
D. all of the above

☐

5. The earliest period of human history is called the _____.

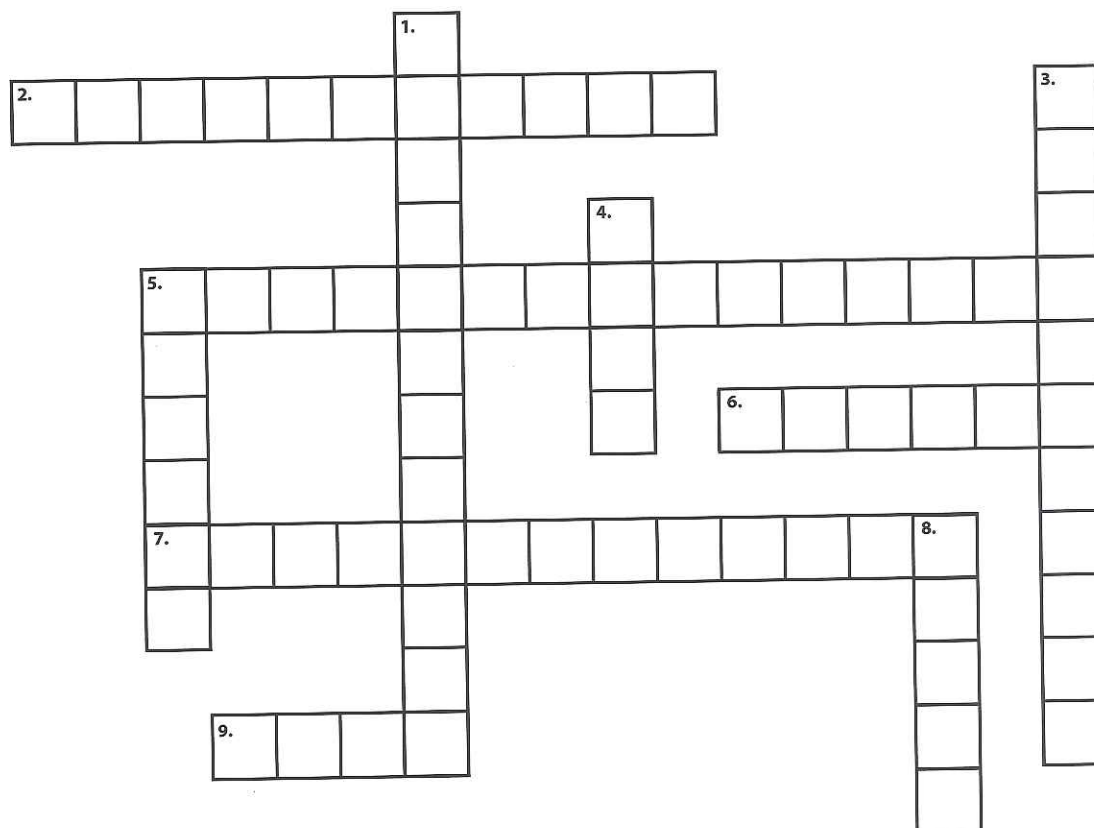
A. Paleolithic Age
B. Neolithic Age
C. Bronze Age
D. African Age



The Beginning of Civilization

Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.



ACROSS

2. Most _____ people were nomadic.
5. _____ use artifacts and remains of ancient humans to learn about culture.
6. In present-day _____, people raised beans, squash, and corn.
7. People began to form _____ during the Bronze Age.
9. People in the Bronze Age kept written records, like _____.

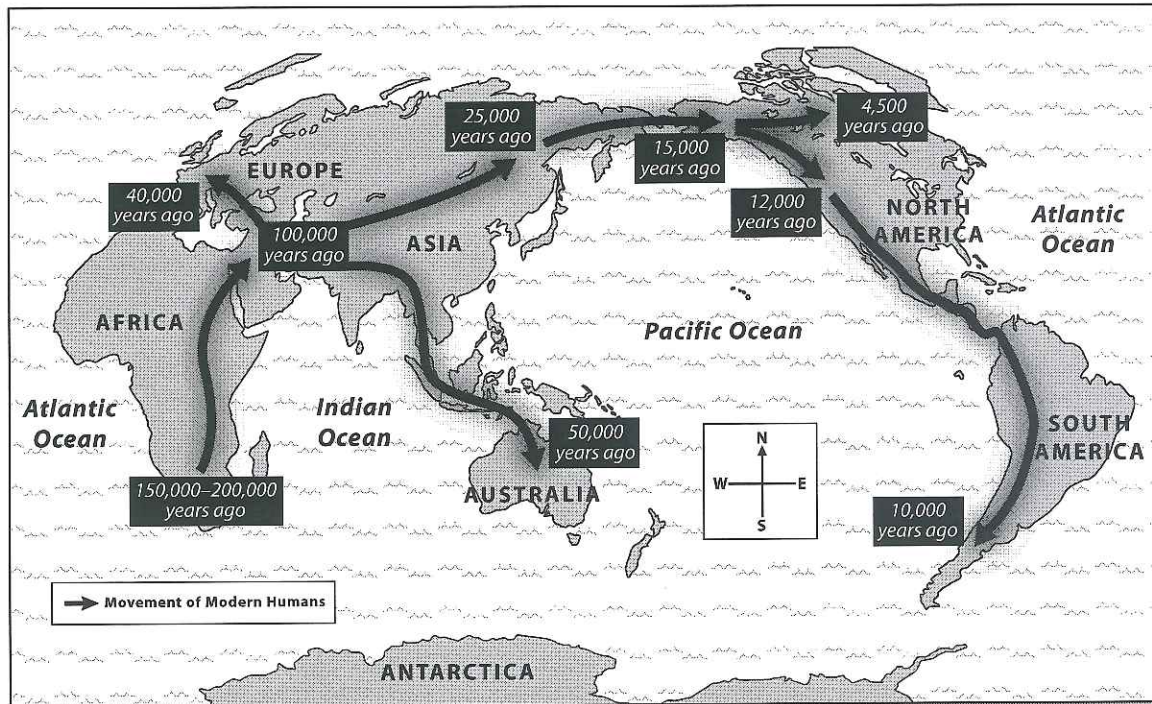
DOWN

1. The first civilizations started in the _____ of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.
3. The Neolithic Age is also called the _____.
4. In the Neolithic Age, people farmed and raised animals for _____.
5. The first modern humans appeared in _____.
8. Paleolithic people invented the _____ and the bow and arrow.

The Beginning of Civilization

Map – Spread of Modern Humans

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.



1. On which continent did modern humans first appear?

2. About how long ago did modern humans migrate to Australia?

3. About how long ago did modern humans migrate from Asia to North America?

CHAPTER

1

The First People

THINK ABOUT AS YOU READ

1. How did the first people live?
2. What started the agricultural revolution?
3. Why did Stone Age farmers live near rivers?

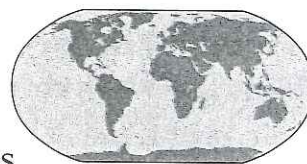
NEW WORDS

- ◆ archaeologists
- ◆ earth
- ◆ tools
- ◆ Stone Age
- ◆ agricultural revolution
- ◆ tame

PEOPLE & PLACES

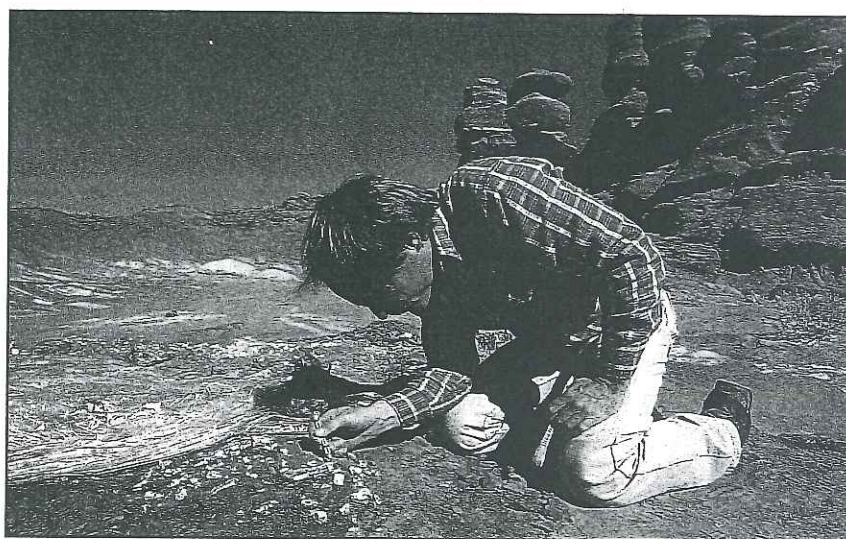
- ◆ Stone Age people

The first people did not live the way we live today. They did not grow food or live in houses. They did not read or write. In this chapter we will learn how the first people lived.



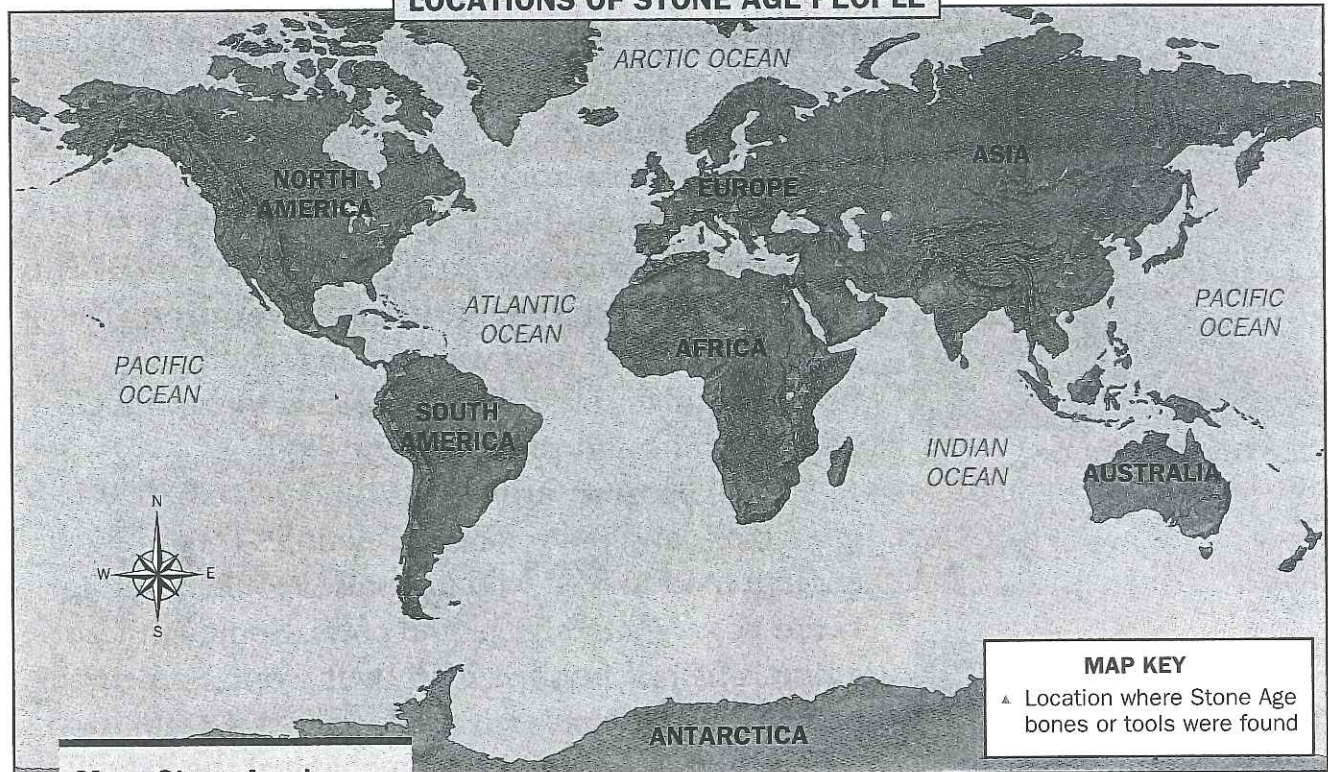
Archaeologists help us learn about people of long ago. Archaeologists are men and women who dig into the **earth**. They find and study the bones of people who lived thousands of years ago. The bones tell how people of long ago looked and how they lived. Archaeologists have also found animal bones from long ago. Some of these bones were used as **tools** for hunting.

Archaeologists have found tools used by people who lived during the **Stone Age**. It is called the Stone Age because most of the tools were made of stone. Stone tools lasted longer and were stronger than tools made of bone or wood. The Stone Age began more than 2,000,000 years ago. It ended about



An archaeologist works slowly and carefully to remove old bones and tools from the earth.

LOCATIONS OF STONE AGE PEOPLE



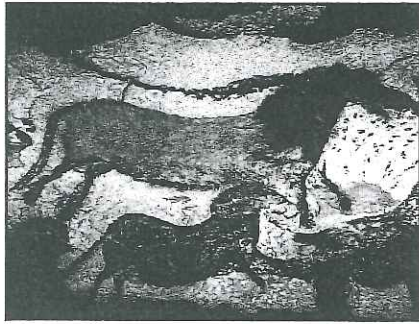
Many Stone Age bones and tools have been found near rivers. Where are some of these rivers located?

5,000 years ago. The people who lived then are called Stone Age people.

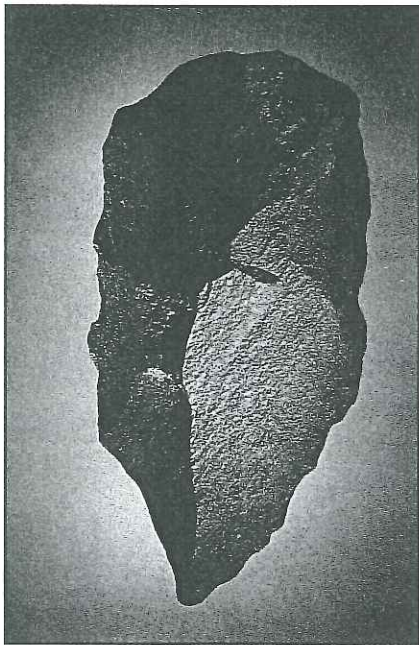
For thousands of years, Stone Age people spent most of their time looking for food. They did not know how to grow food. They found wild berries and nuts to eat. Most people were hunters. They killed animals for food. They made clothes from animal skins. Sometimes they made tools from animal bones.

People of the Stone Age learned to use fire. Fire gave heat and light. Stone Age people used fire to help them cook food and keep warm. Fire also kept people safe. Dangerous animals stayed away from fire at night.

For thousands of years, Stone Age people moved from place to place looking for food. They stayed in one place as long as there was food. When they could no longer find food, they moved to another place. They usually stayed near rivers. There were more animals and plants near rivers. Most Stone Age people moved many times. They did not build houses.



Cave painting from the Stone Age



Stone Age tool

Stone Age people sometimes lived in caves. They built fires in their caves to keep warm. Some people knew how to paint pictures. They made pictures on the walls of their caves. We can learn more about Stone Age people from the pictures they painted.

After thousands and thousands of years, Stone Age people learned how to grow their own food. This was the start of the **agricultural revolution**. The agricultural revolution was a change in the way people got their food. People learned to plant seeds to grow fruits and vegetables for food.

People became farmers. As time passed, they grew more and more food. Sometimes they grew enough food to feed wild animals. People began to **tame** dogs, goats, sheep, and cows. Some of these animals helped families with their work. Sometimes people killed the animals for food.

The agricultural revolution changed the lives of Stone Age people. Stone Age farmers did not have to move from place to place to hunt animals. They could live in one place. They lived on small farms. Some people built small mud houses on their farms. Sometimes people built their homes close together in small villages. Then they could work together and learn from each other.

Stone Age farmers needed water to grow food. Many times there was not enough rain. Farmers began to build their farms near rivers. They used river water to grow food.

As time passed, Stone Age people learned better ways to grow food. They made better stone tools. Stone Age people did not know how to make metal tools. They did not know how to read or write. After many years people in some parts of the world began to do these things. You will read about some of these people in the next chapters.

USING WHAT YOU LEARNED

Using Vocabulary

Finish Up Choose the word or words in dark print to best complete each sentence. Write the word or words on the correct blank line.

tamed tools archaeologists agricultural Stone Age

1. Men and women who study old bones to learn about people of long ago are called _____.
2. Stone Age _____ were items that were used for hunting or farming.
3. The _____ was a period of millions of years in which most people used stones or animal bones to make tools.
4. The _____ revolution was a change in the way Stone Age people got their food.
5. Stone Age farmers _____ wild animals by giving them food to make them less afraid.

Read and Remember

Write the Answer Write one or more sentences to answer each question.

1. When was the Stone Age? _____

2. How did Stone Age people use the animals they killed? _____

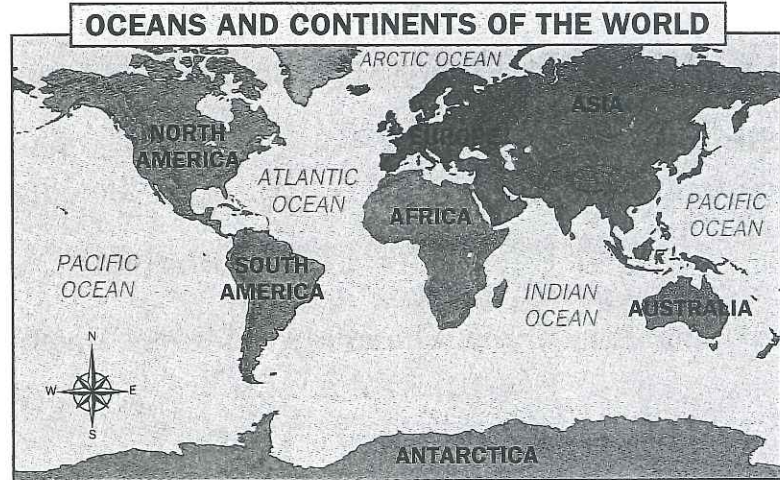
3. How did fire help Stone Age people? _____

4. Why did Stone Age people start their farms near rivers? _____

Skill Builder

Understanding Continents and Oceans

We live on the planet **Earth**. Earth has large bodies of land called **continents**. There are seven continents. Earth also has four large bodies of water called **oceans**. The four oceans separate some of the continents. Look at the map. On a separate sheet of paper, list the four oceans and the seven continents. Then answer each question below.



1. Which two continents do not touch any other continents? _____

2. Which ocean separates Africa and Australia? _____
3. Which five continents have coasts along the Atlantic Ocean? _____

Using Map Directions The four main directions are **north, south, east, and west**. On maps these directions are shown by a **compass rose**. The compass rose shortens the directions to **N, S, E, and W**. Study the map above. Find the compass rose. Then finish each sentence with **north, south, east, or west**.

4. South America is _____ of Antarctica.
5. Africa is _____ of Europe.
6. The Pacific Ocean is _____ of Asia.
7. North America is _____ of the Atlantic Ocean.

Journal Writing

Write a short paragraph that tells how the agricultural revolution changed the lives of Stone Age people.

Crossword Puzzle

Each sentence below has a word missing. Choose the missing word for each sentence from the words in dark print. Then write the words in the correct places on the puzzle.

ACROSS

hunters painted rivers fire

1. Stone Age people _____ pictures on the walls of caves.
2. Stone Age people learned to get heat from _____.
3. Many Stone Age people were animal _____.
4. Farmers during the Stone Age built their farms near _____.

DOWN

earth farmers seeds animals

5. Stone Age people tamed wild ____.
6. Archaeologists dig in the ____ to find old bones and tools.
7. After the agricultural revolution, Stone Age ____ stopped moving from place to place.
8. Farmers planted ____ to grow fruits and vegetables.

