

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

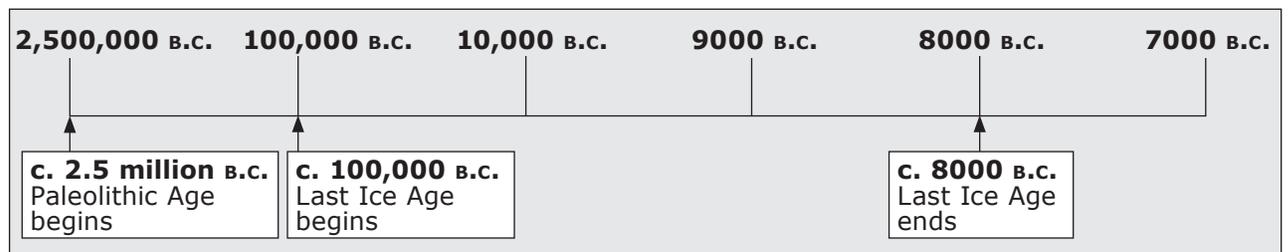
ice ages long periods of extreme cold on Earth

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*

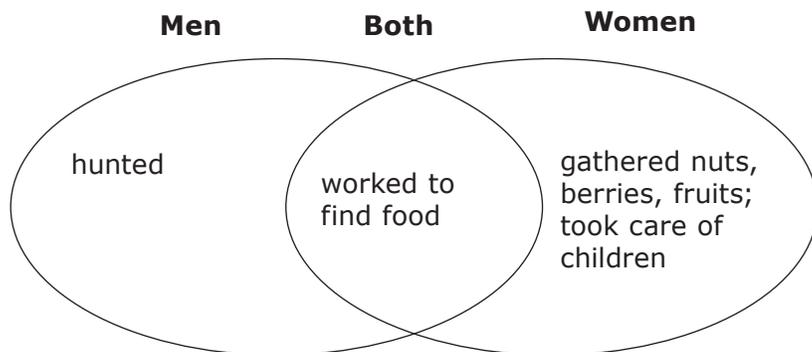
The Paleolithic Age

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. _____

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 2 The Agricultural Revolution

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How do people adapt to their environment?

GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. *How did farming change people's lives?*
2. *What was life like during the Neolithic Age?*
3. *What characteristics did early civilizations share?*

Terms to Know

domesticate to tame

systematic agriculture farming

Neolithic Age the period of time from 8000 to 4000 B.C.

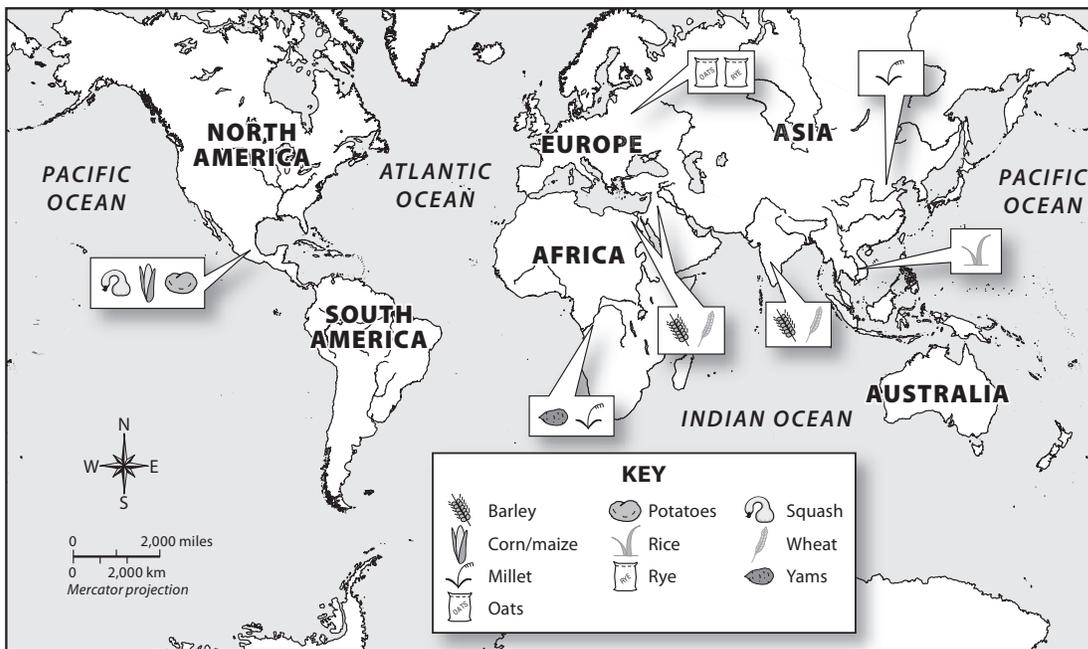
specialization training for a particular job

Bronze Age the period of time from 3000 to 1200 B.C.

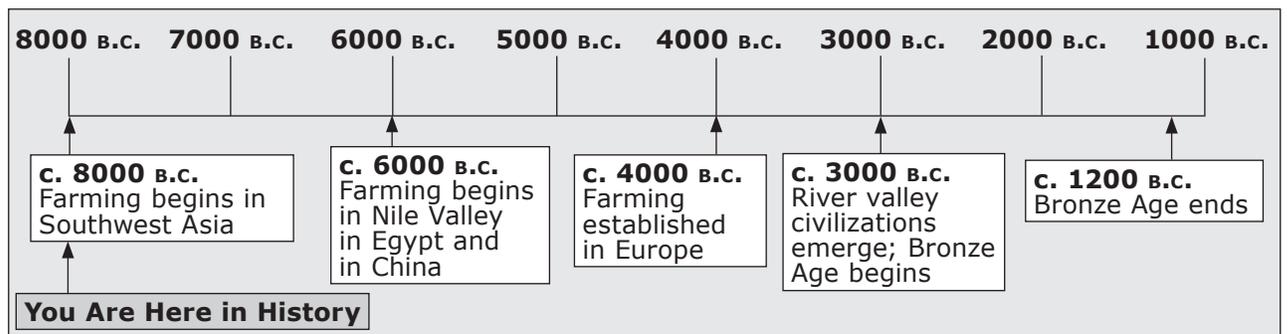
monarchy a government led by a king or a queen

shrine a place where people worship

Where in the world?



When did it happen?



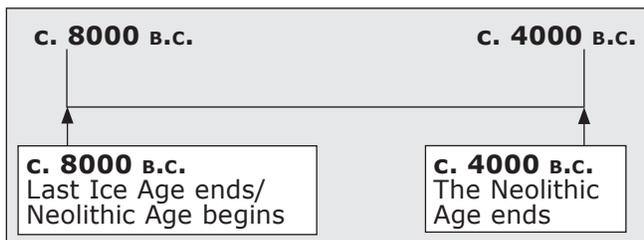
Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 2 The Agricultural Revolution, *Continued*

Neolithic Times

The last Ice Age ended about 10,000 years ago. The climate on Earth became warmer and the ice melted. People began to stay in one place. They started to grow grains and vegetables. People also began to **domesticate**, or tame, animals. This was the beginning of **systematic agriculture**, or farming. Farming slowly replaced hunting and gathering as the main source of food for people.

This change in the way people lived marked the start of the **Neolithic Age**. The Neolithic Age began about 8000 B.C. and ended about 4,000 years later. Agriculture was the biggest change that took place during the Neolithic Age. This change happened very slowly.



The switch from hunting and gathering to farming is called the Agricultural Revolution. Once humans learned how to grow crops and tame animals, their lives became very different. There was a steady supply of food. The population, or the number of people who live in a place, grew. People stopped moving around to look for food. They began to live in settled communities. These changes took place around the world.

Life in the Neolithic Age

Neolithic farmers grew fruits, nuts, and different grains. Some farmers also raised sheep, goats, and cattle. People ate fish and eggs. Some men continued to hunt. People in early communities often had more and better food than nomads.

Better food led to healthier people. Healthier people lived longer and had more children. The population grew. More people could grow more crops. Eventually, farmers grew more food than they could eat. They began to trade food for things they could not make themselves.

Marking the Text

1. Circle the word that means the same as *tame*. Circle the word that means the same as *farming*.

Defining

2. What is the Agricultural Revolution?

Reading Check

3. How did the spread of farming change the lives of nomads?

Cause and Effect

4. What was the effect of having a better supply of food?

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 2 The Agricultural Revolution, *Continued*

Marking the Text

5. Underline the work done by men. Circle the work done by women.

Reading Check

6. How did the spread of agriculture affect trade?

Comparing

7. What were two things that early civilizations had in common?

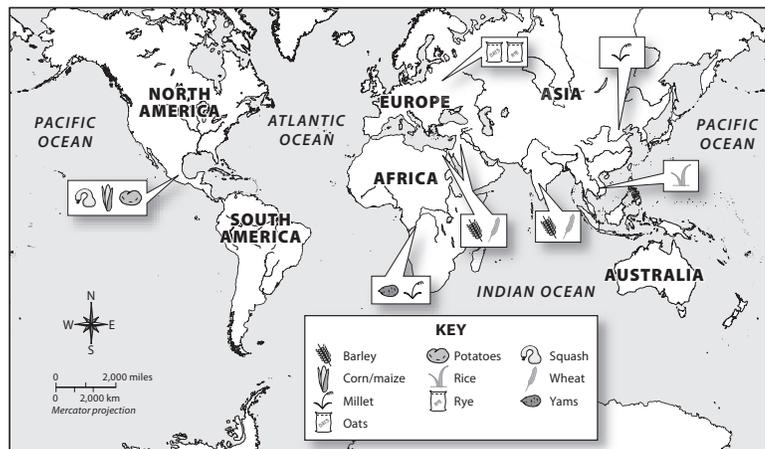
People began to do work other than farming. They could do tasks that matched their talents. This is called **specialization**. Some people made jewelry or weapons. Others made pottery or wove cloth. These people also traded their products for goods they did not have.

In Neolithic communities, most men were farmers. They grew the food and protected the village. Women took care of the children and wove cloth for clothing.

People continued to make advancements. In western Asia, people discovered that mixing tin and copper created bronze. Bronze was stronger than copper. Bronze tools and weapons were better than those made of stone. Bronze became widely used between 3000 and 1200 B.C. This period is known as the **Bronze Age**.

Civilizations Emerge

By the beginning of the Bronze Age, four great civilizations had appeared in river valleys. These civilizations were Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China.



These civilizations were far apart. But they had things in common.

- They developed in river valleys. The rich soil in river valleys made it easier to grow crops. Rivers provided fish. Rivers also encouraged trade.
- Increased trade led to the development of cities. Cities became the centers of civilization.
- People formed governments. Governments protected their people and food supplies. The first governments were monarchies. A **monarchy** is a government led by a king or a queen. Monarchs made laws to keep order.

Early Humans and the Agricultural Revolution

Lesson 2 The Agricultural Revolution, *Continued*

- Religion became more complex. People built **shrines**, or holy places. Priests performed ceremonies to win the approval of the gods and goddesses.
- People were organized into social classes. The classes were based on the type of work people did and the amount of wealth or power they had. Rulers and priests belonged to the highest class. Below this class were farmers and craftspeople. Enslaved people formed the lowest class.

During this time, written language developed. Early writing used symbols. People in early civilizations also produced art. They created paintings and sculptures. They built huge buildings, such as the pyramids.

Check for Understanding

Put these events in order. Write the letters in the order that the events happened.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| a. River valley civilizations emerge | 1. _____ |
| b. Farming begins in Southwest Asia | 2. _____ |
| c. Bronze Age begins | 3. _____ |
| d. Neolithic Age ends | 4. _____ |

List four characteristics shared by early river valley civilizations.

5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Reading Check

8. Why did early peoples form governments?



9. Place a two-tab Foldable along the dotted line to cover the Check for Understanding. Label the anchor tab *Warmer Climate Brings Change*. Label one of the two tabs *Neolithic Age* and the other *Bronze Age*. On the front of the tabs, list three words or phrases that you remember about each title. Use your notes to help you complete the activity under the tabs.

Glue Foldable here