

Module 2

The Stone Ages and Early Cultures



Essential Question

Why was the invention of farming revolutionary?



About the Photo: This cave painting in France is more than 15,000 years old.

In this module, you will learn about the earliest people. You will see how they learned to make tools, hunt, gather food, and even create art.

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HISTORY

VIDEOS, including...

- Stone Age Weapons
- Ötzi the Iceman
- Last Rites: Death Ceremonies

- ✓ Document-Based Investigations
- ✓ Graphic Organizers
- ✓ Interactive Games
- ✓ Image Carousel: Hominids
- ✓ Image with Hotspots: Hunter-Gatherers
- ✓ Interactive Map: Early Human Migrations
- ✓ Image with Hotspots: An Early Farming Society

What You Will Learn...

Lesson 1: The First People 42

The Big Idea Prehistoric people learned to adapt to their environment, to make simple tools, to use fire, and to use language

Lesson 2: Early Human Migration 50

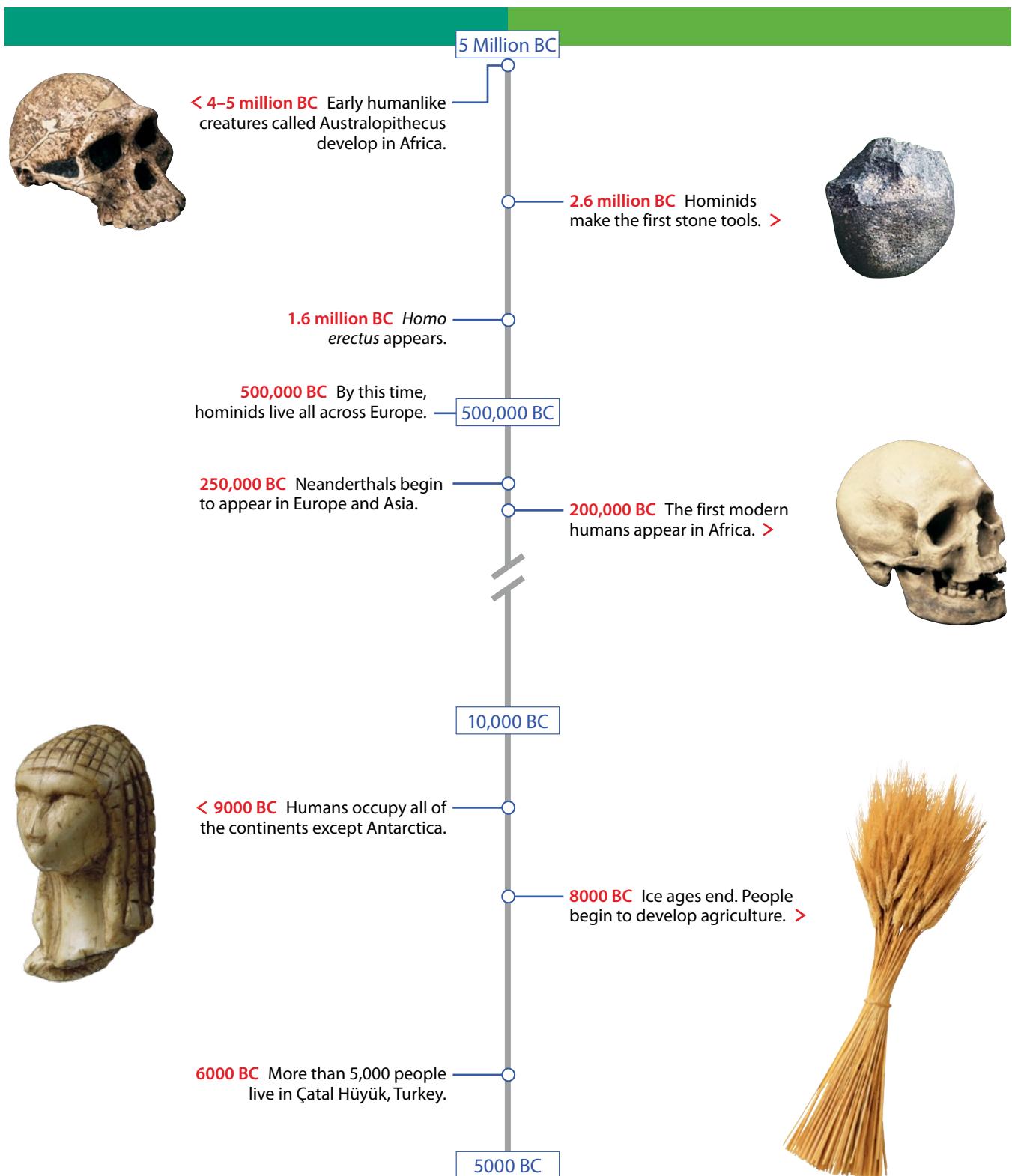
The Big Idea As people migrated around the world, they learned to adapt to new environments.

Lesson 3: Beginnings of Agriculture 55

The Big Idea The development of agriculture brought great changes to human society.

Timeline of Events 5 million BC–5000 BC

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Reading Social Studies

THEME FOCUS:

Society and Culture, Geography

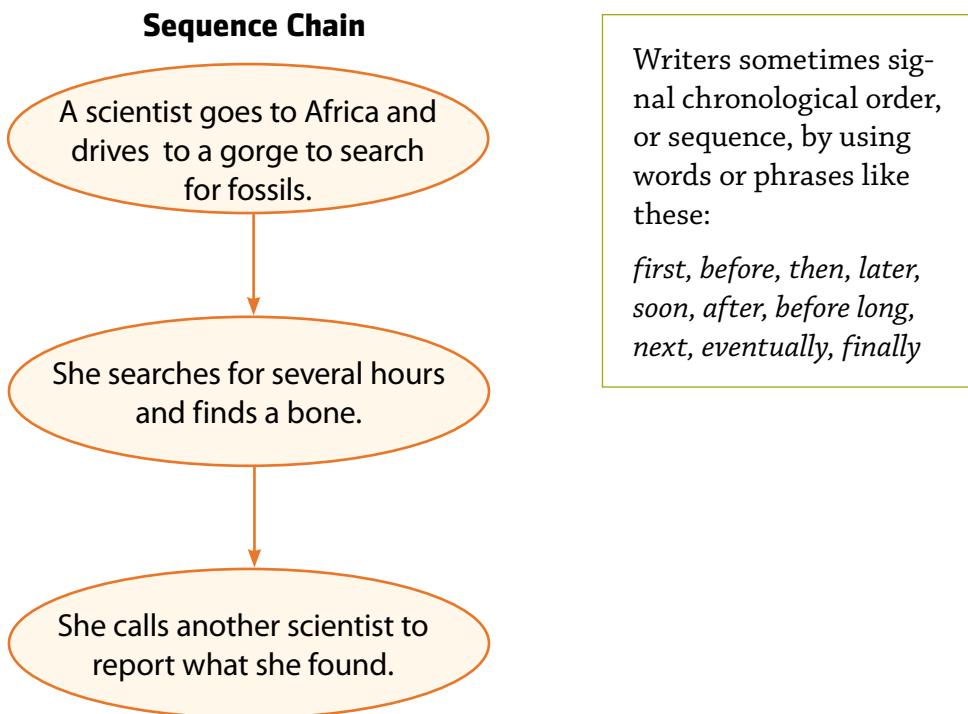
In this module you will learn about the earliest humans and how they lived. You will read about scientists who work constantly to learn more about this mysterious time. As you read, you will see the beginnings of human society and culture—the making of tools, the use of fire, and the creation of language. You will also read about the geography of the world and how it shaped where and how early people lived.

READING FOCUS:

Chronological Order

History, just like our lives, can be seen as a series of events in time. To understand history and events, we often need to see how they are related in time.

Understand Chronological Order The word **chronological** means “related to time.” Events discussed in this history book are discussed in **sequence**, in the order in which they happened. To understand history better, you can use a sequence chain to take notes about events in the order they happened.



You Try It!

Read the following passage and then answer the questions below.

Scientists Study Remains One archaeologist who made important discoveries about prehistory was Mary Leakey. In 1959 she found bones in East Africa that were more than 1.5 million years old. She and her husband, Louis Leakey, believed that the bones belonged to an early hominid. A hominid is an early ancestor of modern-day humans. . . .

In 1974 anthropologist Donald Johanson (joh-HAN-suhn) found bones from another early ancestor. . . . Johanson named his find Lucy. Tests showed that she lived more than 3 million years ago. . . .

In 1994 anthropologist Tim White found remains of a hominid that he believes may have lived as long as 4.4 million years ago. But some scientists disagree with White's time estimate. Discoveries of ancient bones give us information about early humans and their ancestors, but not all scientists agree on the meaning of these discoveries.

Answer these questions based on the passage you just read.

1. Complete the timeline below with information about scientific discoveries from the passage you just read.



Donald Johanson
finds Lucy.

2. Each of the scientists discussed in the passage found the bones of people who lived at different times. Make another timeline that shows the order in which these people lived. What do you notice about this order compared to the order in which the bones were found?

As you read this module, look for words that indicate the order in which events occurred.

Key Terms and People

Lesson 1

prehistory
hominid
ancestor
tool
Paleolithic Era
society
hunter-gatherers

Lesson 2

migrate
ice ages
land bridge
Mesolithic Era

Lesson 3

Neolithic Era
domestication
agriculture
megaliths



The First People

The Big Idea

Prehistoric people learned to adapt to their environment, to make simple tools, to use fire, and to use language.

Main Ideas

- Scientists study the remains of early humans to learn about prehistory.
- Hominids and early humans first appeared in East Africa millions of years ago.
- Stone Age tools grew more complex as time passed.
- Hunter-gatherer societies developed language, art, and religion.

Key Terms

prehistory
hominid
ancestor
tool
Paleolithic Era
society
hunter-gatherers

If YOU were there ...

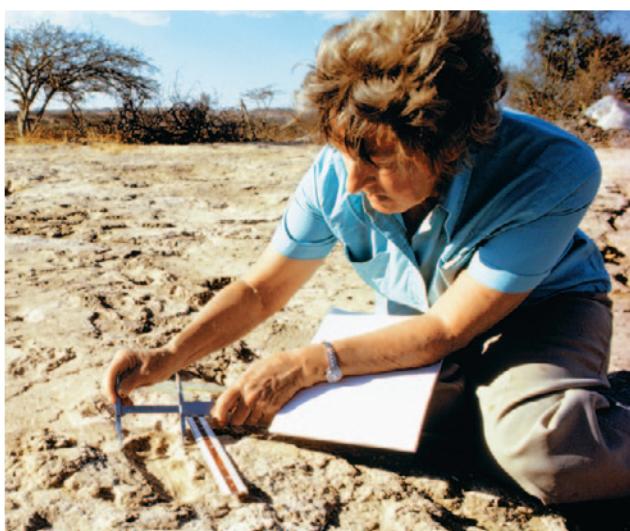
You live 200,000 years ago, in a time known as the Stone Age. A member of your group has offered to teach you his skill. You watch carefully as he strikes two black rocks together. A small piece flakes off. You try to copy him, but the rocks just break. Finally you learn to strike the rock just right. You have made a sharp stone knife!

How will you use your new skill?

Scientists Study Remains

Although humans have lived on the earth for more than a million years, writing was not invented until about 5,000 years ago. Historians call the time before there was writing **prehistory**. Historic time periods, on the other hand, are those for which information has been recorded with letters, words, or numbers. To study prehistory, historians rely on the work of archaeologists and anthropologists.

One archaeologist who made important discoveries about prehistory was Mary Leakey. In 1959 she found bones in East Africa that were more than 1.5 million years old. She and her husband, Louis Leakey, believed that the bones belonged to an early **hominid** (HAH-muh-nuhd). A hominid



Mary Leakey found some of the earliest ancestors of humans in Olduvai Gorge.

is an early ancestor of modern-day humans. An **ancestor** is a relative who lived in the past.

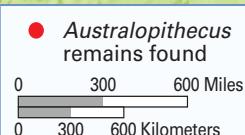
In fact, the bones belonged to an *Australopithecus* (aw-stray-loh-PI-thuh-kuhs), one of the earliest hominids. In 1974 anthropologist Donald Johanson (joh-HAN-suhn) found bones from another early ancestor. He described his discovery:

“We reluctantly headed back toward camp. . . . I glanced over my right shoulder. Light glinted off a bone. I knelt down for a closer look. . . . Everywhere we looked on the slope around us we saw more bones lying on the surface.”

—Donald Johanson, from *Ancestors: In Search of Human Origins*

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Early Hominid Sites



AFRICA

Interpret Maps

- Location** On which continent are all of these sites located?
- Location** What geographic feature is at the center of the largest group of sites?



Donald Johanson discovered the bones of Lucy, an early hominid that lived more than 3 million years ago.

Reading Check

Make Inferences
What can ancient bones and other physical evidence tell us about human ancestors?

Johanson named his find Lucy. Tests showed that she lived more than 3 million years ago. Johanson could tell from her bones that she was small and had walked on two legs. The ability to walk on two legs was a key step in human development.

In 1994 anthropologist Tim White found remains of a hominid that he believes may have lived as long as 4.4 million years ago. But some scientists disagree with White's time estimate. Discoveries of ancient bones give us information about early humans and their ancestors, but not all scientists agree on the meaning of these discoveries.

Scientists have been able to study more complete remains of later hominids. In 1991 two hikers discovered the frozen body of a mummified, or preserved, Stone Age human. Also known as the Iceman, he was nicknamed Ötzi after the location in the Italian Alps where he was found. Glaciers preserved his body, clothing, and other objects for

thousands of years. This has given scientists the chance to study items like a pair of leather shoes, an early version of a backpack, and an ax with a copper blade. An arrowhead was also found in Ötzi's shoulder. These objects have provided valuable information about how he lived and possibly died.

Anthropologists and archaeologists are not the only scholars who study prehistory. Linguists study the shape of the mouth and the throat to learn more about how early humans might have developed language. Geneticists use what they know about DNA to help support evidence from ancient bones and other remains. DNA is a substance that is found in the cells of a plant or animal and that carries the basic genetic information about that plant or animal. Geographers are interested in genetic information because it could tell them more about the migration routes of early humans.

Hominids and Early Humans

Later groups of hominids began to appear about 3 million years ago. As time passed they became more like modern humans.

In the early 1960s Louis Leakey found hominid remains that he called *Homo habilis*, or "handy man." Leakey and his son Richard believed that *Homo habilis* was more closely related to modern humans than Lucy and had a larger brain.

Scientists believe that another group of hominids appeared in Africa about 1.5 million years ago. This group is called *Homo erectus*, or "upright man." Scientists think these people walked completely upright like modern people do.

Scientists believe that *Homo erectus* knew how to control fire. Once fire was started by natural causes, such as lightning, people used it to cook food. Fire also gave them heat and protection against animals.



During the Stone Age, people used tools like these, often for processing food.

Reading Check
Contrast
How was *Homo erectus* different from
Homo habilis?

Eventually, hominids developed characteristics of modern humans. Scientists are not sure exactly when or where the first modern humans lived. Many think that they first appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago. Scientists call these people *Homo sapiens*, or “wise man.” Every person alive today belongs to this group.

Stone Age Tools

The first humans and their ancestors lived during a long period of time called the Stone Age. To help in their studies, archaeologists divide the Stone Age into three periods based on the kinds of tools used at the time. To archaeologists, a **tool** is any handheld object that has been modified to help a person accomplish a task.

The first part of the Stone Age is called the **Paleolithic** (pay-lee-uh-LI-thik) **Era**, or Old Stone Age. It lasted until about 10,000 years ago. During this time people used stone tools.

The First Tools Scientists have found the oldest tools in Tanzania, a country in East Africa. These sharpened stones, about the size of an adult’s fist, are about 2.6 million years old. Each stone had been struck with another rock to create a sharp, jagged edge along one side. This process left one unsharpened side that could be used as a handle.

Scientists think that these first tools were mostly used to process food. The sharp edge could be used to cut, chop, or scrape roots, bones, or meat. Tools like these were used for about 2 million years.

Later Tools Over time, people learned to make better tools. For example, they developed the hand ax. They often made this tool out of a mineral called flint. Flint is easy to shape, and tools made from it can be very sharp. People used hand axes to break tree limbs, to dig, and to cut animal hides.

Hominids

Four major groups of hominids appeared in Africa between 5 million and about 200,000 years ago. Each group was more advanced than the one before it and could use better tools.



Australopithecus

- Name means “southern ape”
- Appeared in Africa about 4–5 million years ago
- Stood upright and walked on two legs
- Brain was about one-third the size of modern humans



Homo habilis

- Name means “handy man”
- Appeared in Africa about 2.4 million years ago
- Used early stone tools for chopping and scraping
- Brain was about half the size of modern humans

An early Stone Age chopper



Homo erectus

- Name means “upright man”
- Appeared in Africa about 2–1.5 million years ago
- Used early stone tools like the hand ax
- Learned to control fire
- Migrated out of Africa to Asia and Europe

A hand ax



Homo sapiens

- Name means “wise man”
- Appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago
- Migrated around the world
- Same species as modern human beings
- Learned to create fire and use a wide variety of tools
- Developed language

A flint knife





Early people were hunter-gatherers. They hunted animals and gathered wild plants to survive. Life for these hunter-gatherers was difficult and dangerous. Still, people learned how to make tools, use fire, and even create art.

Analyze Visuals

What tools are people using in this picture?

Reading Check

Summarize How did tools improve during the Old Stone Age? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

People also learned to attach wooden handles to tools. By attaching a wooden shaft to a stone point, for example, they invented the spear. Because a spear could be thrown, hunters no longer had to stand close to animals they were hunting. As a result, people could hunt larger animals. Among the animals hunted by Stone Age people were deer, horses, bison, and elephant-like creatures called mammoths.

Hunter-Gatherer Societies

As early humans developed tools and new hunting techniques, they formed societies. A **society** is a community of people who share a common culture. These societies developed cultures with languages, religions, and art.

Society Anthropologists believe that early humans lived in small groups. In bad weather they might have taken shelter in a cave if there was one nearby. When food or water became hard to find, groups of people would have to move to new areas.

The early humans of the Stone Age were **hunter-gatherers**—people who hunt animals and gather wild plants, seeds, fruits, and nuts to survive. Hunter-gatherer societies still exist in some places today. Historians and anthropologists study them to draw conclusions about hunter-gatherers long ago.

Each person in a hunter-gatherer society did tasks to help meet the needs of the community. Anthropologists believe that most Stone Age hunters were men. They hunted in groups, sometimes chasing entire herds of animals over cliffs. This method was both more productive and safer than hunting alone.

Women in hunter-gatherer societies probably took responsibility for collecting plants to eat. They likely stayed near camps and took care of children. Children helped their communities as well. For example, scholars think children may have made noise to encourage animals, birds, or fish to move into nets or confined spaces so they could be captured. The first pets may also have appeared at this time. People kept dogs to help them hunt and for protection.

Language, Art, and Religion The most important development of early Stone Age culture was language. Scientists have many theories about why language first developed. Some think it was to make hunting in groups easier. Others think it developed as a way for people to form relationships. Still others think language made it easier for people to resolve issues like how to distribute food.

Language wasn't the only way early people expressed themselves. They also created art. People carved figures out of materials like stone, ivory, and bone. They carved beads for personal ornamentation. They painted and carved images of people and animals on cave walls. Scientists still

Academic Vocabulary

distribute to divide among a group of people

Link to Today

Stone Tools

Did you know that Stone Age people's tools weren't as primitive as we might think? They made knife blades and arrowheads—like the one shown—out of volcanic glass called obsidian. The obsidian blades were very sharp. In fact, they could be 100 times sharper and smoother than the steel blades used for surgery in modern hospitals.

Today some doctors are going back to using these Stone Age materials. They have found that blades made from obsidian are more precise than modern scalpels. Some doctors use obsidian blades for delicate surgery on the face because the stone tools leave "nicer-looking" scars.

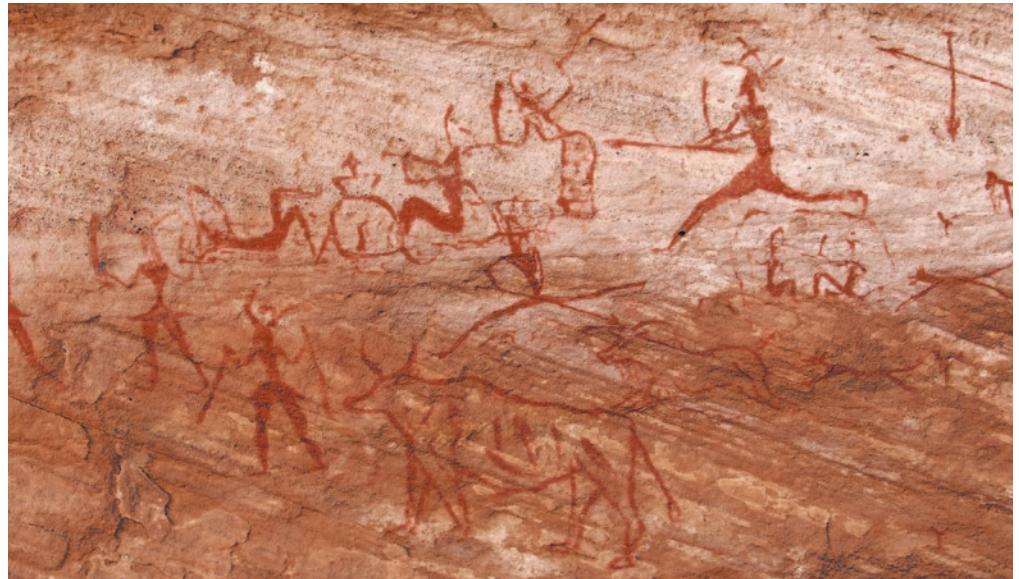
Analyze Information

How do you think modern uses of obsidian blades are different from those in the Stone Age? Give evidence from the text to explain your answer.



Cave Paintings

Thousands of years ago, early people decorated cave walls with paintings like this one in Africa. No one knows for sure why people created cave paintings, but many historians think they were related to hunting.



Reading Check

Analyze Causes

What was one possible reason for the development of language?

aren't sure why people made art. They think that perhaps the cave paintings were used to teach people how to hunt. They might also have had religious meanings.

Scholars know little about the religious beliefs of early people. Archaeologists have found graves that included food and artifacts. Many think these discoveries show that human religion developed during the period.

Summary and Preview Scientists have discovered and studied the remains of hominids and early humans who lived in East Africa millions of years ago. These Stone Age people were hunter-gatherers who used fire, stone tools, and language. In the next lesson, you will learn how early humans moved out of Africa and populated the world.

Lesson 1 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Identify** Who found the bones of Lucy?
b. **Explain** Why do historians need archaeologists and anthropologists to study prehistory?
2. a. **Recall** What is the scientific name for modern humans?
b. **Make Inferences** What might have been one advantage of walking completely upright?
3. a. **Recall** What kinds of tools did people use during the Paleolithic Era?
b. **Synthesize** Design a model of a stone and wood tool you could use to help you with your chores. Describe your tool in a sentence or two.

4. a. **Define** What is a hunter-gatherer?

- b. **Form Opinions** In your opinion, what was the most important change brought about by the development of language? Why?

Critical Thinking

5. **Evaluate** In this lesson, you learned about advances made by prehistoric humans. Using a graphic organizer like the one shown here, rank the three advances you think are most important. Next to your organizer, write a sentence explaining why you ranked the advances in that order.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



Early Human Migration

The Big Idea

As people migrated around the world, they learned to adapt to new environments.

Main Ideas

- People moved out of Africa as the earth's climates changed.
- People adapted to new environments by making clothing and new types of tools.

Key Terms

migrate
ice ages
land bridge
Mesolithic Era

If YOU were there ...

Your tribe of hunter-gatherers has lived in this place for as long as anyone can remember. But now there are not enough animals to hunt. Whenever you find berries and roots, you have to share them with people from other tribes. Your leaders think it's time to find a new home in the lands far beyond the mountains. But no one has ever traveled there, and many people are afraid.

How do you feel about moving to a new home?

People Move Out of Africa

During the Old Stone Age, climate patterns around the world changed, transforming the earth's geography. In response to these changes, people began to **migrate**, or move, to new places.

The Ice Ages Most scientists believe that about 1.6 million years ago, many places around the world began to experience long periods of freezing weather. These freezing times are called the **ice ages**. The ice ages ended about 10,000 years ago.

During the ice ages, huge sheets of ice covered much of the earth's land. These ice sheets were formed from ocean water, leaving ocean levels lower than they are now. Many areas that are now underwater were dry land then. For example, a narrow body of water now separates Asia and North America. But scientists think that during the ice ages, the ocean level dropped and exposed a **land bridge**, a strip of land connecting two continents. Land bridges allowed Stone Age peoples to migrate around the world.



Stone age peoples often had to migrate during the ice ages to find animals to hunt.

Settling New Lands Scientists agree that migration around the world took hundreds of thousands of years. Early hominids, the ancestors of modern humans, migrated from Africa to Asia as early as 2 million years ago. From there, they spread to Southeast Asia and Europe.

Later, humans also began to migrate around the world. Earlier hominids died out. Look at the map to see the routes of early human migration. Humans began to migrate from East Africa to southern Africa and southwestern Asia around 100,000 years ago. From there, people moved east across southern Asia. They could then migrate to Australia. Scientists are not sure exactly how the first people reached Australia. Even though ocean levels were lower then, there was always open sea between Asia and Australia.

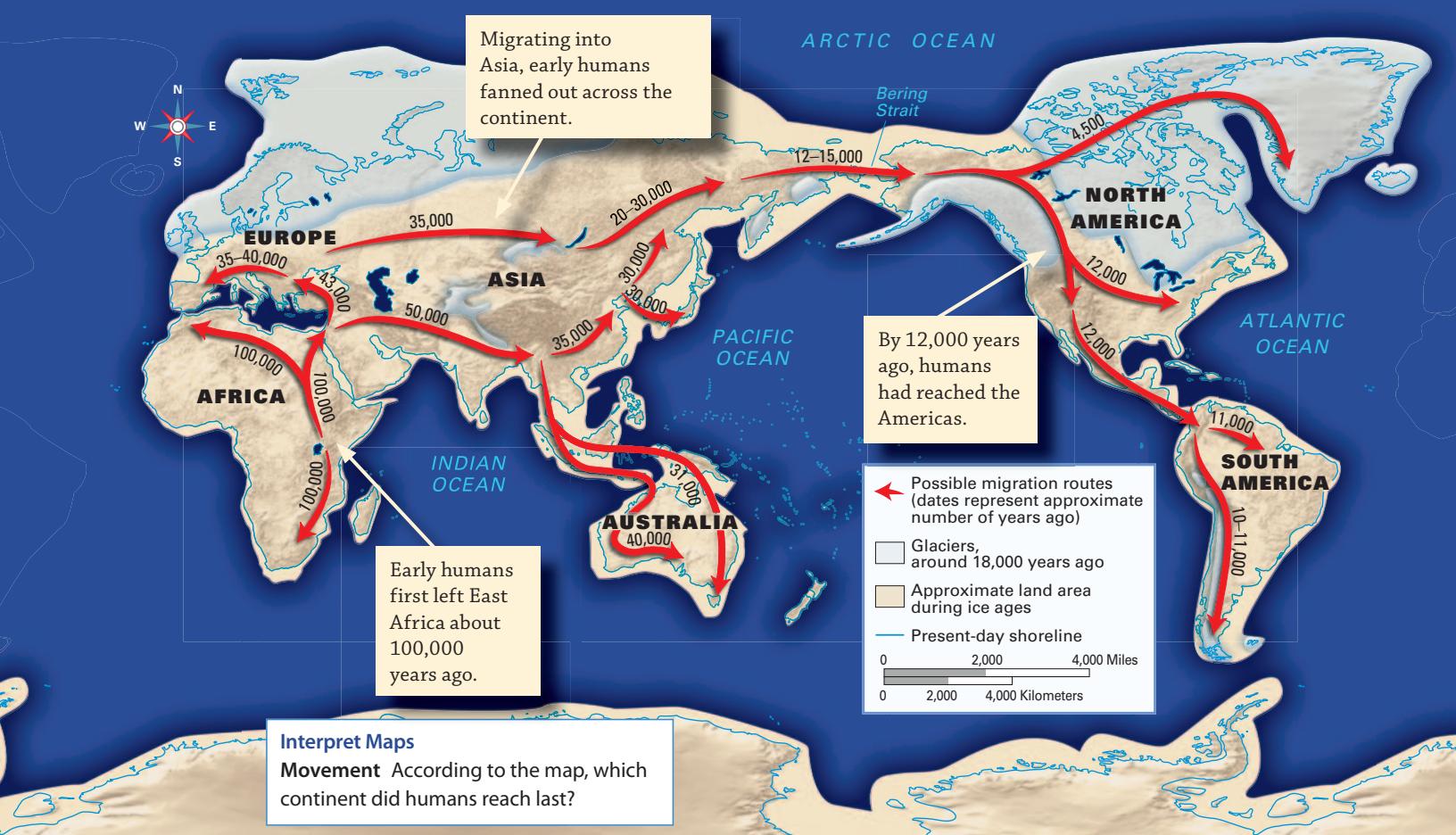
From southwestern Asia, humans also migrated north into Europe. Geographic features such as high mountains and cold temperatures delayed migration northward into northern Asia. Eventually, however, people from both Europe and southern Asia moved into that region.

From northern Asia, people moved into North America. Scientists disagree on when and how the first people arrived in North America. Most scholars think people must have crossed a land bridge from Asia to North America. Once in North America, these people moved south, following herds of animals and settling in South America. By 9,000 BC, humans lived on all continents of the world except Antarctica.

Early humans often migrated because of climate change and the need to find new food sources. For example, scientists have discovered that large areas of Sub-Saharan Africa experienced periods of drought between 280,000

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Early Human Migration



Reading Check

Analyze Effects
How did the ice ages influence human migration?

and 30,000 years ago. A drought is an extended period of time when an area receives little or no rain. The southeastern part of the African continent became warm, wet, and humid at the same time. These conditions led early people to move to the southeast, where living environments were much more favorable.

People Adapt to New Environments

As early people moved to new lands, they found environments that differed greatly from those in East Africa. Many places were much colder and had new plants and animals. Early people had to learn to adapt to these different environments.

Clothing and Shelter Although fire helped keep people warm in very cold areas, people needed more protection. To keep warm, they learned to sew animal skins together to make clothing.

In addition to clothing, people needed shelter to survive. Some took shelter in caves. When they moved to areas with no caves, they built their own shelters. One early type of human-made shelter was pit houses. They were pits in the ground with roofs of branches and leaves.

Early people also built homes above the ground. Some lived in tents made of animal skins. Others built more permanent structures of wood, stone, clay, or other materials. Even bones from large animals such as mammoths were used in building shelters.

Early people encountered new environments and colder climates as they migrated away from East Africa.



Views of Migration to the Americas

For many years scientists were fairly certain that the first Americans came from Asia, following big game through an ice-free path in the glaciers. New discoveries have challenged beliefs about the first Americans. Some scientists now are not so sure the first Americans came along an ice-free path in the glaciers.

Analyze Historical Sources

Describe the contrasting points of view in the sources.

"Doubtless it was a formidable [challenging] place, an ice-walled valley of frigid winds, fierce snows, and clinging fogs. 'Man didn't travel it on the basis of a bag lunch,' notes Dr. Morian. Yet grazing animals would have entered, and behind them would have come a rivulet [stream] of human hunters."

—Thomas Canby, from "Search for the First Americans," National Geographic, September 1979

"There's no reason people couldn't have come along the coast, skirting [going around] the glaciers just the way recreational kayakers do today."

—James Dixon, quoted in National Geographic, December 2000

New Tools and Technologies People also adapted to new environments with new types of tools. These tools were smaller and more complex than tools from the Old Stone Age. They defined the **Mesolithic** (me-zuh-LI-thik) **Era**, or the Middle Stone Age. This period began more than 10,000 years ago and lasted to about 5,000 years ago in some places.

During this time period, people found new uses for bone and stone tools. People who lived near water invented hooks and fishing spears. Other groups invented the bow and arrow.

A Mammoth House

Early people used whatever was available to make shelters. In Central Asia, where wood was scarce, some early people made their homes from mammoth bones.

Heavy mammoth bones were used as a frame for the shelters.



The frame was probably covered with animal hides to form a solid roof and walls.

Reading Check

Find Main Ideas
What were two ways people adapted to new environments?

In addition to tools, people developed new technologies to improve their lives. For example, some learned to make canoes by hollowing out logs. They used the canoes to travel on rivers and lakes. People also began to make pottery. Developments like these, in addition to clothing and shelter, allowed people to adapt to new environments.

Summary and Preview Early people adapted to new environments with new kinds of clothing, shelter, and tools. In Lesson 3, you will read about how Stone Age peoples developed farming.

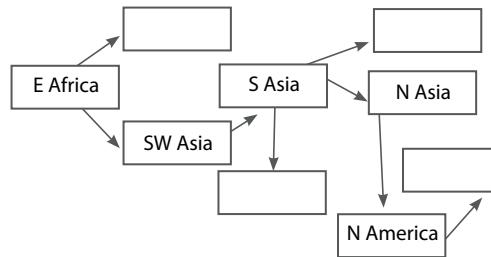
Lesson 2 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Define** What is a **land bridge**?
b. **Analyze** Why did it take so long for early people to reach South America?
2. a. **Recall** What did people use to make tools in the **Mesolithic Era**?
b. **Summarize** Why did people have to learn to make clothes and build shelters?

Critical Thinking

3. **Organize Information** Create a sequence chain organizer like the one shown, and use it to show the path of human migration around the world.



4. **Synthesize** Draw some sketches that include food, shelter, clothing, and tools to show how early communities adapted to their new environments. Include captions that describe each of your illustrations.



Beginnings of Agriculture

The Big Idea

The development of agriculture brought great changes to human society.

Main Ideas

- The first farmers learned to grow plants and raise animals in the New Stone Age.
- Farming changed societies and the way people lived.

Key Terms

Neolithic Era
domestication
agriculture
megaliths

If YOU were there ...

As a gatherer, you know where to find the sweetest fruits. Every summer, you eat many of these fruits, dropping the seeds on the ground. One day you return to find new plants everywhere. You realize that the plants have grown from your dropped seeds.

How could this discovery change your way of life?

The First Farmers

After the Middle Stone Age came a period of time that scientists call the **Neolithic** (nee-uh-LI-thik) **Era**, or New Stone Age. It began as early as 10,000 years ago in Southwest Asia. In other places, this era began much later and lasted much longer than it did there.

During the New Stone Age, people learned to polish stones to make tools like saws and drills. People also learned how to make fire. Before, they could only use fire that had been started by natural causes such as lightning. But tools and fire weren't the only major changes that occurred during the Neolithic Era. In fact, the biggest changes came in how people produced food.

Plants After a warming trend brought an end to the ice ages, new plants began to grow in some areas. For example, wild barley and wheat plants started to spread throughout Southwest Asia. Over time, people came to depend on these wild plants for food. They began to settle where grains grew.

People soon learned that they could plant seeds themselves to grow their own crops. Historians call the shift from food gathering to food producing the Neolithic Revolution. Most experts believe that this revolution, or change, first occurred in the societies of Southwest Asia.

Eventually, people learned to change plants to make them more useful. They planted only the largest grains or the sweetest fruits. The process of changing plants or animals to make them more useful to humans is called **domestication**.



An Early Farming Society

This illustration shows the village of Çatal Hüyük in modern Turkey around 8,000 years ago. Villagers hunted, fished, and traded outside the village. They farmed wheat, barley, and peas and used simple channels to move water to the fields.

Academic Vocabulary
development
creation

The domestication of plants led to the **development** of **agriculture**, or farming. For the first time, people could produce their own food. This development changed human society forever.

Animals Learning to produce food was a major accomplishment for early people. But learning how to use animals for their own purposes was almost equally important.

Hunters didn't have to follow wild herds anymore. Instead, farmers could keep sheep or goats for milk, food, and wool. Farmers could also use large animals like cattle to carry loads or to pull large tools used in farming. Using animals to help with farming improved the chances of survival.

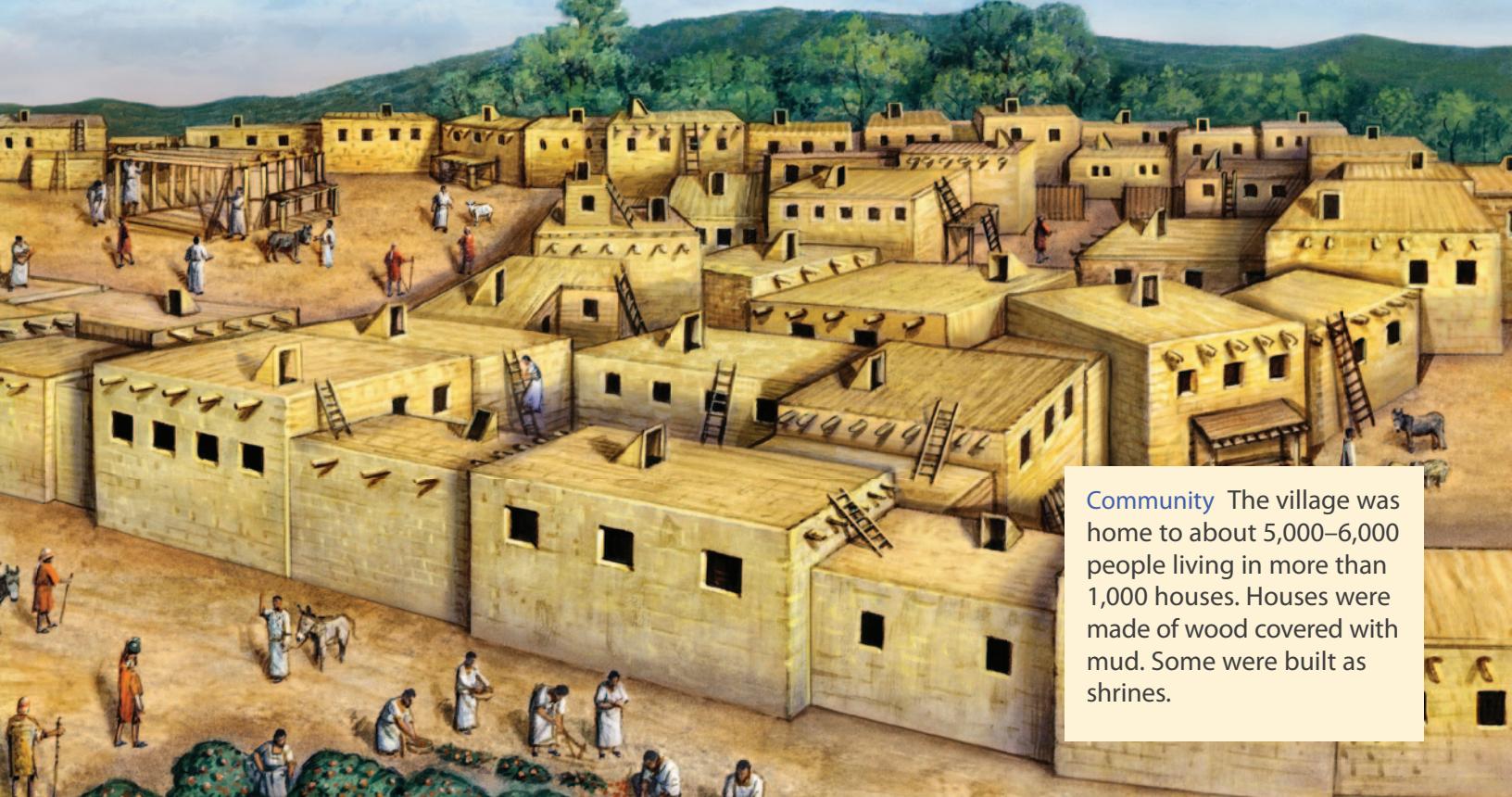
Farming Changes Societies

The Neolithic Revolution brought huge changes to people's lives. With survival more certain, people could focus on activities besides finding food.

Domestication of plants enabled people to use plant fibers to make cloth. The domestication of animals made it possible to use wool from goats and sheep and skins from horses for clothes.

People also began to build permanent settlements. As they started raising crops and animals, they needed to stay in one place instead of continuing to travel in search of new food sources. Then, once people were able to control their own food production, the world's population grew. In some areas, farming communities developed into towns.

Reading Check
Analyze Effects
What was one effect of domestication?



Community The village was home to about 5,000–6,000 people living in more than 1,000 houses. Houses were made of wood covered with mud. Some were built as shrines.

Analyze Visuals

Judging from the illustration, how did people enter their houses?

The village of Çatal Hüyük in modern Turkey is one of the earliest farming villages discovered.

Early Economies Two examples of Neolithic communities are Çatal Hüyük, in modern-day Turkey, and Jericho, near the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. These towns had traditional economies. In a traditional economy, people make economic decisions based on customs and beliefs passed down from generation to generation. These decisions may include which crops to plant and how they should be distributed.

In Neolithic communities like Çatal Hüyük and Jericho, people used primitive tools and methods to grow, harvest, and hunt sources of food. They created large pits for storage of food. This meant that farmers could increase their productivity by harvesting large amounts of food and storing it after harvest. Having a surplus, or an extra amount, made trade possible, since farmers had a supply of food that others might want to purchase or gain through barter. A barter system is a form of exchange where goods and services are traded for other goods and services. The people who lived in Jericho, for example, traded items like salt and grain for turquoise and gems from the Sinai region.

Religious Practices As populations of towns grew, groups of people gathered to perform religious ceremonies. Some put up megaliths.

Megaliths are huge stones used as monuments or as the sites for religious gatherings.

Early people probably believed in gods and goddesses associated with the four elements—air, water, fire, and earth—or with animals. For example, one early European group honored a thunder god, while another



Stonehenge is a prehistoric site located in England. Some scientists believe that this circular arrangement of megaliths was connected to the practice of worshipping ancestors.

group worshipped bulls. Some scholars also believe that many prehistoric peoples prayed to their ancestors. People in some societies today still hold many of these same beliefs.

Many communities and religions have practices and structures that guide what happens when a person dies. At Çatal Hüyük, for example, flesh was removed from the body, and the bones were then bleached and buried in the floors of homes.

Government and Social Order Remains of societies can sometimes give clues about government and other social structures. At Çatal Hüyük, archaeologists have not found evidence of any government buildings or public spaces that might have been used by a group of people larger than a family. The village also does not appear to have been led by an individual. However, women seem to have been treated equally in Çatal Hüyük society. Men and women ate the same foods and did similar types of work.

Jericho, by contrast, has more evidence of an organized government. A large wall surrounded the city. Building a structure like a wall requires many people to work together under the direction of another person or group, like a government.

Summary Stone Age peoples adapted to new environments by domesticating plants and animals. These changes led to the development of religion and the growth of towns.

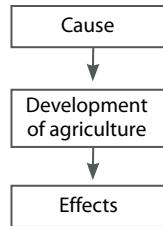
Lesson 3 Assessment

Review Ideas, Terms, and People

1. a. **Define** What is domestication of a plant or animal?
- b. **Form Generalizations** How did early people use domesticated animals?
2. a. **Explain** How did farming allow people to create permanent settlements?
- b. **Describe** What were gods and goddesses probably associated with in prehistoric religion?
- c. **Summarize** How did early people express their religious beliefs?

Critical Thinking

3. **Analyze** Copy the graphic organizer at right. Use it to show one cause and three effects of the development of agriculture.
4. **Contrast** Contrast the government and social order of Çatal Hüyük and Jericho.



Social Studies Skills

Identify Central Issues

Define the Skill

Central issues are the main problems or topics that are related to an event. In world history, they usually involve political, social, economic, territorial, moral, or technological matters. The ability to identify the central issue allows you to focus on information that is most important to understanding the event.

Learn the Skill

Use these guidelines to gain a better understanding of historical events as you identify central issues.

1. Identify the subject of the information. What is the information about?
2. Determine the source of the information. Is it a primary source or a secondary source?
3. Determine the purpose of the information. Why has it been provided?
4. Find the strongest statements in the information. These are often clues to issues or ideas the writer thinks are the most central or important.
5. Think about values, concerns, and events that would have been important to the people of the times. Determine how the information might be connected to those larger issues.

Practice the Skill

Apply the guidelines to identify the central issue in the following passage. Then answer the questions.

“What distinguished [set apart] the Neolithic Era from earlier ages was people’s ability to shape stone tools by polishing and grinding. This allowed people to make more specialized tools. Even more important changes took place also. The development of agriculture changed the basic way people lived. Earlier people had been wanderers, who moved from place to place in search of food. Some people began settling in permanent villages. Exactly how they learned that seeds could be planted and made to grow year after year remains a mystery. However, the shift from food gathering to food producing was possibly the most important change ever in history.”

1. What is the general subject of this passage?
2. What changes distinguished the Neolithic Era from earlier periods?
3. According to the writer, what is the central issue to understand about the Neolithic Era?
4. What statements in the passage help you to determine the central issue?

Module 2 Assessment

Review Vocabulary, Terms, and People

For each group of terms below, write a sentence that shows how all the terms in the group are related.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. prehistory | 3. Paleolithic Era |
| ancestor | tool |
| hominid | hunter-gatherers |
| 2. domestication | develop |
| Neolithic Era | 4. land bridge |
| agriculture | ice ages |
| society | migrate |

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

Lesson 1

5. a. **Categorize** Identify each of the following as either prehistoric or historic: Stone Age tool; map with writing on it; stone tablet engraved with pictures and symbols.
- b. **Summarize** What types of artifacts might scholars like linguists, geneticists, and geographers study to learn more about humans who lived during prehistory?
- c. **Form Generalizations** Make a statement that relates the amount of time that humans have been hunter-gatherers to the amount of time they have been farmers.
- d. **Summarize** Write a paragraph using information from the text to summarize how nomadic hunter-gatherers used tools, fire, weapons, and beads during the Stone Age.

Lesson 2

6. a. **Describe** What new skills did people develop to help them survive?
- b. **Evaluate** About 15,000 years ago, where do you think life would have been more difficult—in eastern Africa or northern Europe? Why?

Lesson 3

7. a. **Define** What is a traditional economy?
- b. **Analyze** Explain the impact that agriculture had on the movement and settlement of early civilizations.
- c. **Draw Conclusions** What do scholars believe about leadership in Çatal Hüyük? How did they come to this conclusion?

Module 2 Assessment, continued

Review Themes

8. **Society and Culture** How did the development of language change hunter-gatherer society?
9. **Geography** How did global climate change affect the migration of early people?

Reading Skills

Understand Chronological Order Below are two lists of events. Arrange the events in each list in chronological order.

10. *Homo sapiens* appears.
Homo habilis appears.
Homo erectus appears.
11. People make stone tools.
People make metal tools.
People attach wooden handles to tools.

Social Studies Skills

Identify Central Issues Read the primary source passage below and then answer the question that follows.

“Almonds provide a striking example of bitter seeds and their change under domestication. Most wild almond seeds contain an intensely [very] bitter chemical called amygdalin, which (as was already mentioned) breaks down to yield [put out] the poison cyanide. A snack of wild almonds can kill a person foolish enough to ignore the warning of the bitter taste. Since the first stage in unconscious domestication involves gathering seeds to eat, how on earth did domestication of wild almonds ever reach that first stage?”

—Jared Diamond, from *Guns, Germs, and Steel*

12. What does the author suggest is the major issue he will address in the text?

Focus On Writing

13. **Create a Storyboard** Create a storyboard that uses images to tell the story of prehistoric humans. Remember that a storyboard tells a story with simple sketches and short captions. What images will you include in each frame? How many frames will you need? How will you represent your ideas visually? After you have sketched an outline for your storyboard, begin drawing it. Be sure to include all significant adaptations and developments made by prehistoric people. If you like, you might want to draw your storyboard in the simple style of prehistoric cave paintings. As the last frame in your storyboard, write a detailed summary to conclude your story.