

Section 2: Prehistory
The Beginnings of Human Society

Reading Readiness Guide

K-W-L

With your group, quickly preview the section, then brainstorm and list **what you already Know** about prehistoric times in the first column of the chart below. In the second column, write **what you Want to know** or find out from reading the section.

After you read, review your notes and record **what you Learned** in the third column of the chart.

What you already know	What you want to know	What you learned
<p>Example: During prehistoric times, humans made tools out of stone.</p>	<p>Example: Why did humans make tools out of stone?</p>	<p>Example: Humans made tools from stone to cut plants or meat for food, and to use as weapons.</p>

CHAPTER 1

Prepare to Read

Section 2 Prehistory

Objectives

1. Discover how hunter-gatherers lived during the Stone Age.
2. Learn about the beginning of farming.

Target Reading Skill

Preview and Predict Making predictions about what you will learn from your text helps you set a purpose for reading. It also helps you remember what you have read. Before you begin reading, preview the section. Look at the section title and objectives above, then the headings. Then predict what the section will tell you. Based on your preview, you will probably predict that this section will tell you about how early humans lived.

List two facts that you expect to learn about how early humans lived.

Prediction 1: _____

Prediction 2: _____

As you read, check your predictions. Were they right? If they were not very accurate, you may need to pay closer attention while you preview the section.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Context Clues Sometimes you can pick up clues about an unfamiliar word's meaning from the words, phrases, and sentences around it. The underlined words in the paragraph below give clues to the meaning of the word *nomad*.

Many of our Old Stone Age ancestors were **nomads**. They moved around to places where they thought they would find food. They stayed there for several days. When they had gathered all the food around them, they moved on.

A nomad is a person who travels from place to place instead of settling in one place. The underlined phrases told you that information.

Section 2 Summary

Stone Age Hunting and Gathering

1 The Stone Age was the earliest known period of human culture. Hominids, including early humans, began using stone to create tools. They also made tools from wood and animal bones. The Stone Age continued until people learned to use metal for tools.

5 Archaeologists divide the Stone Age into three periods: the Old Stone Age, the Middle Stone Age, and the New Stone Age. During the Old Stone Age, early hominids did not yet know how to farm. They lived by 10 hunting animals and gathering wild plants. Over time they learned to hunt in groups. Most of human prehistory took place during the Old Stone Age.

Early hominids first learned to use fire between 1,400,000 and 500,000 years ago. Early hominids later 15 learned to create fire. With fire to keep them warm, people could move to areas with cold climates.

As early hominids learned to use tools, they left their original homes in Africa. This may have occurred as early as one million years ago. Many early hominids 20 were nomads. They moved around to places where they thought they would find food. When they had finished gathering all the food around them, they moved on. ✓

Early hominids eventually spread over much of Earth.

Target Reading Skill

Based on what you have read so far, are your predictions on target? If not, change your predictions now.

New Predictions: _____

✓ Reading Check

What was life like during the Stone Age?

When	Event
At least 500,000 years ago	Early hominids are living in Asia and Europe
More than 100,000 years ago	Modern humans originated in Africa
About 30,000 years ago	Humans cross Asia to North America

Key Terms

Stone Age (stohn ayj) *n.* a period of time during which people made tools and weapons from stone

hominid (HAHM uh nid) *n.* a modern human or a member of an earlier group that may have included ancestors or relatives of modern humans

nomad (NOH mad) *n.* a person who has no settled home

The Beginning of Farming

25 People lived by hunting and gathering food for tens of thousands of years. During the Middle Stone Age, people learned to make better tools. About 11,000 years ago, people learned to grow their own food. This was the beginning of the New Stone Age. They no longer
30 had to be nomads.

At the same time, some people became pastoral nomads. Pastoral nomads raised livestock. They traveled in search of grass for their animals. There are still pastoral nomads in some countries today.

35 In most societies, women were in charge of farming. Men were usually hunters.

Some places were better for farming than others. Soil in some areas was very fertile. In several places around the world, the soil, water, and length of grow-
40 ing seasons were good for plants. People there became farmers. Over time, people learned how to grow better, more useful plants.

During the New Stone Age, humans learned to domesticate animals. Dogs were used for hunting.
45 Sheep, goats, and pigs gave meat, milk, wool, and skins. By about 2400 B.C., cattle, camels, horses, and donkeys were used to carry heavy loads. Domesticated animals helped people make sure they would have a steady supply of food. ✓

Review Questions

1. What important skills did early hominids of the Old Stone Age use to find food?

2. What marked the start of the New Stone Age?

Key Terms

domesticate (duh MES tih kayt) v. tame wild plants and animals for human use

Vocabulary Strategy

Look at the phrase *pastoral nomads* in the underlined sentence. The term is not defined for you. But there are clues to what it means. Write the definition below, then circle the words or phrases that helped you learn its meaning.



✓ Reading Check

What skills did people develop during the New Stone Age?

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Guided Reading and Review

A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 2, fill in the table below with information about early humans. Under each main idea, write two supporting details.

Main Idea A	
The ability to make tools was an important step in the development of human civilization.	
1.	
2.	

Main Idea B	
The growing of crops was one of the most important developments in the history of human civilization.	
3.	
4.	

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

- The period of time during which people made lasting tools and weapons mainly from stone is known as the _____, the earliest known period of human culture.
- People who have no single, settled home and who travel from place to place in search of food are called _____.
- Plants grow well in _____ soil, which contains the substances they need to grow.
- During the New Stone Age, humans learned to tame, or _____, wild animals.

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Section Quiz

A. Key Terms

Directions: Fill in the blanks in Column I with the correct terms in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank.

Column I

1. The earliest known period of human culture is the _____.
2. A person who has no single settled home is a(n) _____.
3. Soil that is rich in the substances plants need is called _____.
4. A word that describes the process of taming and raising animals for human use is _____.

Column II

- a. domesticate
- b. Stone Age
- c. nomad
- d. fertile

B. Main Ideas

Directions: Write the letter of the correct answer in each blank.

- _____ 5. People of the Old Stone Age survived by
 - a. training dogs to help them hunt.
 - b. gathering seeds to plant crops.
 - c. hunting animals and gathering wild plants.
 - d. building stone houses.
- _____ 6. Between 1,400,000 and 500,000 years ago our ancestors learned how to
 - a. grow their own food.
 - b. develop new and better hunting tools from bronze.
 - c. mine for gold.
 - d. create fire, which allowed them to live in cold climates.
- _____ 7. Our human ancestors originated in
 - a. Peru and first migrated throughout South America.
 - b. North America and first migrated to Asia.
 - c. Africa and migrated to Europe and Asia.
 - d. Australia and migrated to South China.
- _____ 8. During the New Stone Age people became
 - a. miners and metal workers.
 - b. nomads and Icemen.
 - c. farmers and pastoral nomads.
 - d. archaeologists and geographers.