Chapter Introduction

This chapter will introduce you to Early People. You will learn about the first humans and about the modern scientists and historians who study them.

Section 1: Studying the Distant Past
Section 2: Hunter-Gatherer Societies
Section 3: Populating the Earth
Mary Leakey: Exploring the Stone Age

What were Mary Leakey’s early interests?
How did her career activities relate to her early interests?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Early Interests</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Career Activities</th>
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In the myStory, what does the phrase “she got her wish” mean?

What evidence suggests that Mary Leakey was a skilled artist?
Mary Leakey: Exploring the Stone Age

Why was it unusual for Mary Leakey to supervise an excavation site?

What kind of person was Mary Leakey?
Mary Leakey: Exploring the Stone Age

What did Mary Leakey find? Why was her discovery important?

How did her discovery affect ideas about human development?

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<th>Mary Leakey’s Discoveries</th>
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<td><strong>What Mary Leakey Found</strong></td>
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What are the consequences of technology?

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<th>Your Questions and Skills</th>
<th>Mary Leakey’s Questions and Skills</th>
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What do items left behind say about us?

What I Found

What It Says About Me
**Academic Vocabulary**

**evidence** — *n.*, something that can be used as proof
A *blue tongue* was **evidence** that *Jill had eaten a blueberry snow cone.*

**conclude** — *v.*, to decide as a result of thinking or reasoning
*Smi...les and laughter helped me **conclude** that the party was a success.*
**Key Ideas**

Scientists use fossils and artifacts to draw conclusions about early humans.

Archaeological evidence indicates that human life began in Africa.
Studying the Distant Past

Key Terms

**anthropology**—the study of how human beings behave

**archaeologist**—an anthropologist who studies human life by examining the things that people leave behind

**prehistory**—the time before written records
Key Terms

**fossil**—hardened remains or imprints of living things that existed long ago

**geologist**—a scientist who studies the physical materials of Earth itself, such as soil and rocks

**artifact**—an object made and used by humans
What are some ways that different scientists study human prehistory?

Archeologists find and study fossils of living things to understand the prehistoric past.

Techniques that geologists use to determine the age of fossils include

• layering;
• radioactive dating; and
• DNA analysis.
What do fossils and artifacts tell us about human prehistory?

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<th>Clues About Human Prehistory</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fossils</strong></td>
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Important Archaeologists and Their Discoveries

1959  Mary and Louis Leakey: Olduvai Gorge
1974  Donald Johanson: Lucy
2001  Michael Brunet: “oldest” skull
2009  Tim White: Ardi
Uncovering the Past

Step 1

Step 2

Step 3
Discoveries such as “Lucy” and “Ardi” lead most scientists to believe that humankind began in East Africa.

Some scientists disagree. For example, Michael Brunet believes human life started elsewhere in Africa. He found a skull in Central Africa that may support that theory.
What do fossils tell us?

What do all fossil finds have in common?

How do fossils form?

What are three ways to date fossils?
What have scientists found?

What did scientists conclude from the skull that Mary Leakey found?

Why was Donald Johanson so surprised to find a complete skeleton?

How would you sequence the fossil finds of Johanson, Brunet, and White?
Studying the Past

| **Many kinds of scientists work together to study early humans.** | **Scientists have discovered several important clues to early human life.** | **Many questions still exist about the beginnings of human life.** |

**Essential Question**

What are the consequences of technology?
### How do tools help you learn more easily?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tools You Use to Learn</th>
<th>Paper and Pencil</th>
<th>Calculator</th>
<th>Computer</th>
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element—n., basic part of a whole
Costumes, music, and special effects can all be elements that make a film successful.

complex—adj., having many related parts; not simple
The problems in our community are complex and will require the work of many different people and groups to solve.
Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Key Ideas

The development of new skills allowed hunter-gatherer societies to survive.

Modern humans and Neanderthals both appeared late in the Stone Age.
Key Terms

**hunter-gatherers**—people who lived by hunting small animals and gathering plants

**technology**—tools and skills that people use to meet their wants and needs
Key Terms

culture—the many different elements that make up the way of life of a people

nomads—people who move from place to place with the seasons
The Development of Tools

Humans began to make stone tools about 2.5 million years ago.

This era is called the Paleolithic Age, or Old Stone Age.

How can tools make it easier to solve a problem?
Stone Age Tools

- Cutting tools for chopping trees, cutting meat, and scraping animal skins
- Sharp spear and arrow tips
- Tools from bone and antler
Using Fire

Fire
Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Early Stone Age Culture

Stone Age hunter-gatherers lived in bands of 10 or 12 adults and their children.

They were nomads who moved with the seasons to find food.

Groups sometimes found shelter in caves. They also built temporary shelter from branches or animal skin.

Finding food was the main activity for hunter-gatherers. Men and boys hunted. Women and girls gathered.
How Early Hunter-Gatherers Lived

Why is the Paleolithic era named for stone?

How might changing tools change hunting practices for early humans?

Describe an early Stone Age community.
Hunter-Gatherer Societies

Neanderthals

• first appeared about 200,000 years ago.
• had short, sturdy skeletons.
• had only very simple communication skills.
• made no art or music.
• had simple burial practices.
Homo sapiens

- first appeared about 100,000 years ago.
- had taller, slimmer bodies.
- had complex language skills.
- made art and music.
- had more complex burial practices.
Both Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens*

- made hunting tools.
- used fire.
- had large brains.
- lived in the same region about 30,000 to 40,000 years ago.
Later Stone Age People

What are some similarities between *Homo sapiens* and Neanderthals? What are some differences?

How do modern humans compare with *Homo sapiens*?

What did language allow *Homo sapiens* to do?
What are the consequences of technology?

**Development of tools**

Because of tools, early humans could

**Use of fire**

Because of fire, early humans could

**Development of language**

Because of language, early humans could

**Development of culture**

Because of culture, early humans could
Why do people move?

People move because
Academic Vocabulary

network—*n.*, a closely interconnected group of people or things
*I have a network of friends that helps me through difficult times.*

potential—*n.*, possibility to grow or change in the future
*The coach said that Anna had great potential as a basketball player.*
Over time, modern humans populated most regions of the world.

As they migrated, humans learned to adapt to various environments.
Art and other evidence reveal that human societies became more complex and developed religious beliefs.
Key Terms

populate—become inhabitants of

migration—process in which people leave their homeland to live somewhere else

environment—surroundings
Key Terms

adapt—change one’s way of life

clan—group of families with a common ancestor

animism—belief that the natural world is filled with spirits
Homo sapiens Migration Theories

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Two Migration Theories</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Out of Africa</td>
<td>Separate Origins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Homo sapiens</em> originated in Africa. They then migrated to other parts of the world.</td>
<td>Large-brained humans developed separately in many places. Different types mixed together and eventually became <em>Homo sapiens</em>.</td>
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</table>
Early People
Populating the Earth

List evidence scientists use to support each main migration theory.

<table>
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<th>Out of Africa Theory</th>
<th>Separate Origins Theory</th>
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How did the skull found in 2007 support the out of Africa theory?
Why did it take so long for population to spread from Africa to Australia?
Challenges of Migration

*Homo sapiens* had to adapt to new environments as they migrated: 
*What were some main ways they adapted?*

Each place had different climate, plants, and animals: 
*Why was it necessary to understand differences?*
Characteristics of the Ice Age

The Ice Age Comes

- Temperatures dropped.
- Thick sheets of ice covered the land.
- Rainfall decreased and ocean levels dropped.
- Land bridges were exposed.
-
## Ice Age Changes

### People in the Ice Age

- needed new shelters and clothing to stay warm.
- had to keep fires burning all the time.
What does the cave art at Lascaux and Altamira tell us about life in the Ice Age?
Scientists believe that Ice Age people buried their dead.

Burial practices show evidence of rituals, such as burying bodies with jewelry or decoration.

Burial rituals suggest that early humans had developed beliefs in deeper meanings of the natural and social world.

These beliefs could be the beginnings of religion.
Religion in the Ice Age

What burial practices did Ice Age people perform?

What do prehistoric burial sites suggest about human cultures of that time?
What are the consequences of technology?

In what important ways did human culture change during the Paleolithic Era?

About 100,000 years ago

About 70,000 years ago

About 30,000 years ago

About 16,000–25,000 years ago

About 10,000 years ago