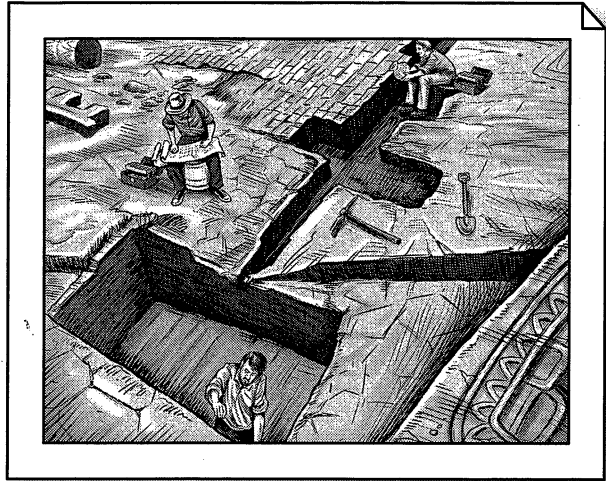


The Beginning of Civilization

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.

Human Beginnings

Paleolithic Age, Era, or Period	Neolithic Age, Era, or Period
The Old Stone Age	The New Stone Age
2 million to 10,000 BC	9000- 3500 BC
hunters and gatherers (nuts, berries, & seed)	Farmers
flint, stone, & bone tools	polished tools made of metal with sharper points
hunting, fishing, & gathering plants for food	grew a variety of crops & raised domesticated animals such as sheep, goats, & cattle
lived in caves & skin tents	built permanent houses of mud bricks, wood, & thatch
Nomad/Wanderer	Settlers / Settled in fertile crescent to grow crops for food
used resources & moved on	formed communities where they could share work and protect each other
clothes made from animal skins & tools made from stone & bone	made better clothes from crops such as cotton and made tools from metal towards the end of this age
crude tools limited their advancement	invention of agriculture, mixed farming, & the wheel caused many changes for humans
no specialization of occupation	Specialization such as - carpentry, weaving, & pottery
survival	trade / cultural diffusion (learning from other cultures) traditional economy / bartering

Cro-Magnon Man

Lived in Europe, and did not live a life of constant struggle because they worked together to provide food for their tribe. They learned to store food, and use traps to gather food while they were doing other things. They built rafts and canoes, and bow and arrows. They also drew cave paintings. First early Humans!



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 _____.

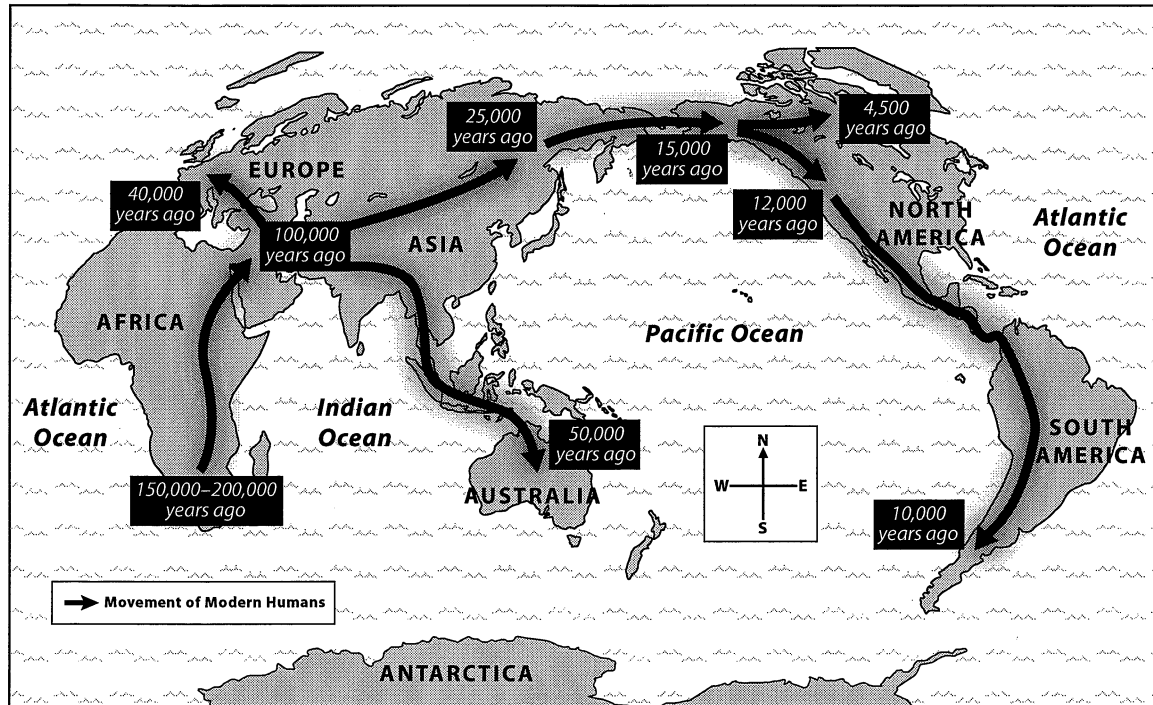
- A. Paleolithic Age
- B. Neolithic Age
- C. Bronze Age
- D. African Age



The Beginning of Civilization

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?

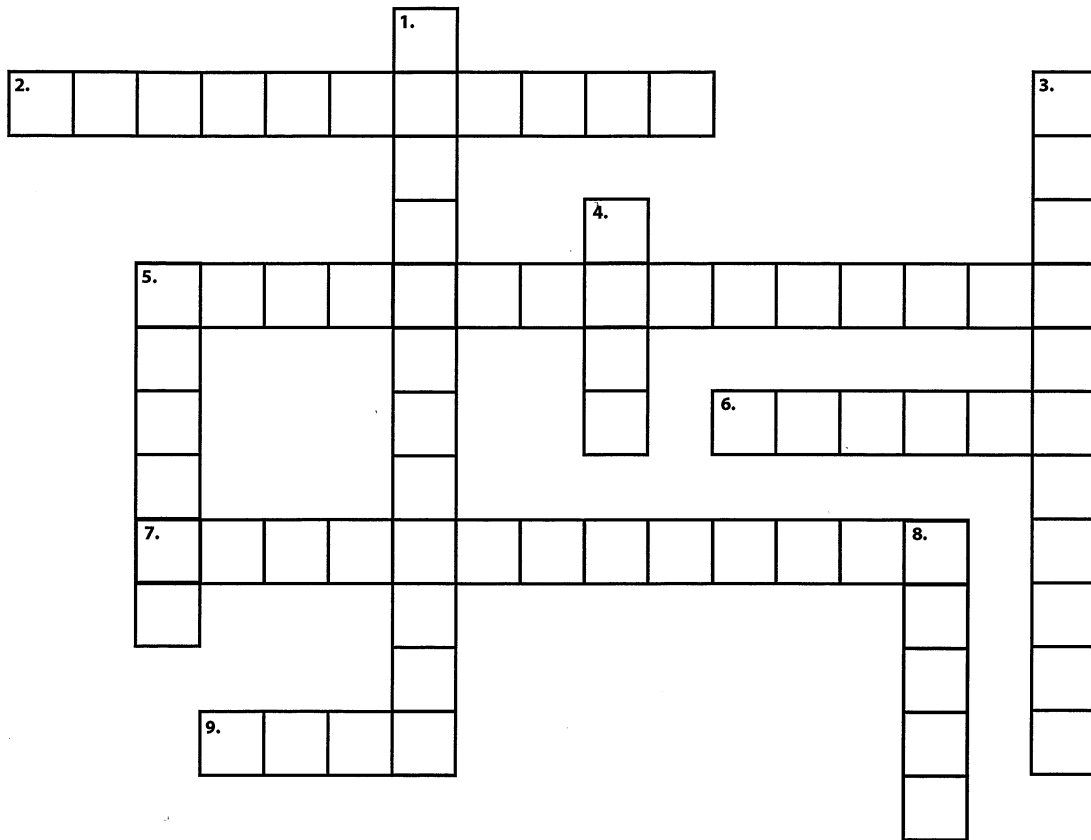
3. About how long ago did modern humans migrate from Asia to North America?



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.