What is the importance of the dots, lines, and Symbols engraved on stone, bones, and ivory?

Future historians will be in a unique position when they come to record the history of our own times.

They will hardly know which facts to select from the great mass of evidence that steadily accumulates.

What is more, they will not have to rely solely on the written word.

Films, videos, CDs, and CD-ROMs are just some of the bewildering amount of information they will have.

They will be able, as it were, to see and hear us in action.

But the historian attempting to reconstruct the distant past is always faced with a difficult task.

He has to deduce what he can from the few scanty clues available.

Even seemingly insignificant remains can shed interesting light on the history of early man.

Up to now, historians have assumed that calendars came into being with the advent of agriculture, for then man was faced with a real need to understand something about the seasons.

Recent scientific evidence seems to indicate that this assumption is incorrect.

Historians have long been puzzled by dots, lines, and symbols which have been engraved on walls, bones, and the ivory tusks of mammoths.

The nomads who made these markings lived by hunting and fishing during the last Ice Age, which began about 35,000 B.C. and ended about 10,000 B.C.

By correlating markings made in various parts of the world, historians have been able to read this difficult code.

They have found that it is connected with the passage of days and the phases of the moon.

It is, in fact, a primitive type of calendar.

It has long been known that the hunting scenes depicted on walls were not simply a form of artistic expression.

They had a definite meaning, for they were as near as early man could get to writing.

It is possible that there is a definite relation between these paintings and the markings that sometimes accompany them.

It seems that man was making a real effort to understand the seasons 20,000 years earlier than has been supposed.

Historians have long been puzzled by prehistoric markings on walls, bones, and tusks.

The people who made the markings were nomads during the last Ice Age.

Finally, historians have managed to read this difficult code and realized that they depict the passing of the days and phases of the moon.

They are in fact, a primitive calendar.

There is a connection between the pictures of hunting scenes and the markings with them.

Future historians will have plenty of sources from which to learn about twentieth-century man.

Not only will they have the written word, they will also have films, video, audio cassettes, CDs, and CD-ROMs. In fact, they will have so much source material that they will hardly know where to start!

If they study all the material available, they will be able to build up a complete social and political history of our time.

They will know exactly how we dressed, what we ate in every different country and they will know exactly what our homes were like.

They will know what our towns and cities were like and what forms of entertainment we enjoyed.

In fact, they will not only learn about our forms of entertainment, they will be able to enjoy a lot of them, too-our music, plays, musical shows, video games, our art, our literature, And they will be able to read and see the news day by day as it happened.

They will learn in detail the way we fought our wars-the way we used jet fighters, helicopters, ships, and tanks.

They will be able to learn every detail of great moments in history, and everything about leading figures of the time as well as the lives of ordinary men and women.

In future, the study of history will provide interest and excitement for a lot of people, the past will be brought to life, and history will no longer be boring.

What's the difference between this and that?

When I was with them, I always knew I was among friends.

In assuming that calendars came into being with the advent of agriculture, historians made the mistake of disregarding the markings that early man had been responsible for.

The scientific evidence that has recently come to light is that the markings made by various nomadic groups all have a definite pattern.

The paintings which have been found on the walls of nomadic dwelling places have taught historians something about the nomadic way of life.

It will be as if they could see and hear us in action.

Until recently, historians assumed that calendars came to exist with the advent of agriculture.

The people who lived by hunting and fishing during the last Ice Age wandered from place to place.