

The Earliest Human Societies

Before You Read: K-W-L

K-W-L stands for what you know, what you want to know, and what you have learned.

- What do you already know about early human societies?
- Study the map and the time line. What do they tell you about where early humans lived?
- What do you want to learn about the earliest human societies?

Big Ideas About the Earliest Human Societies

Culture Ways of living change as humans interact with one another.

The first humans hunted animals and gathered plants for food. Then, as they interacted with one another, they developed tools and weapons to aid them in these activities. New, more settled ways of living developed as people shared ideas.



Integrated Technology

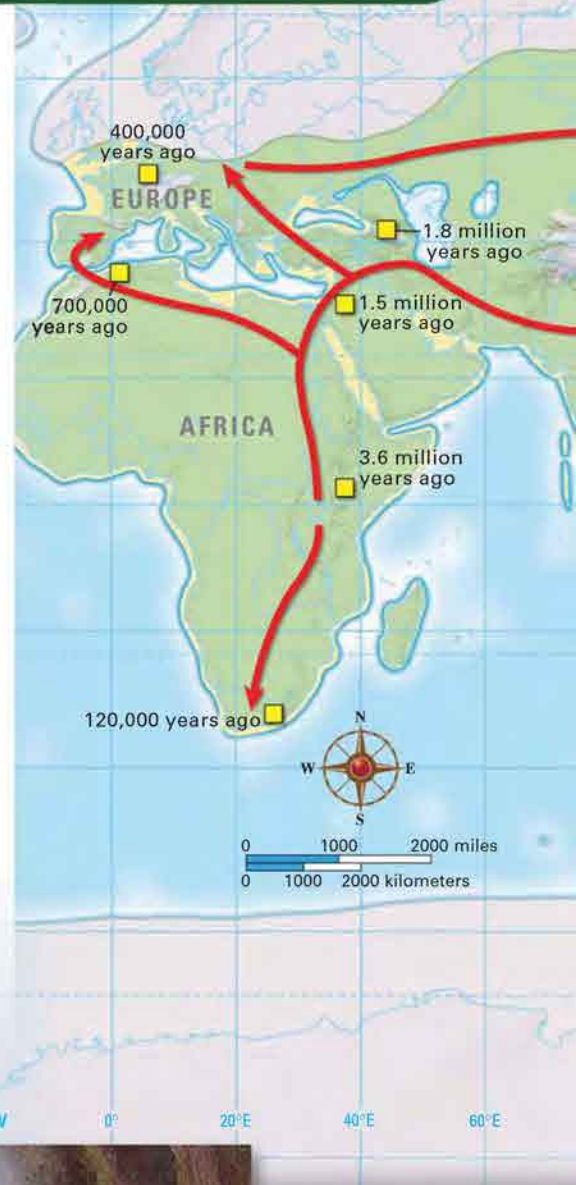
eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Starting with a Story



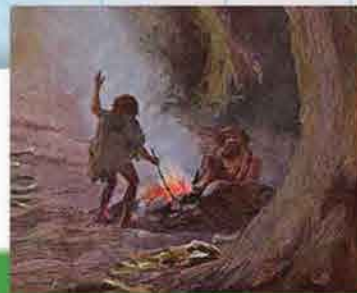
INTERNET RESOURCES

- Go to **ClassZone.com** for
- WebQuest
 - Homework Helper
 - Research Links
 - Internet Activities
 - Quizzes
 - Maps
 - Test Practice
 - Current Events



500,000 B.C.

Early humans learn how to control fire.
(19th-century lithograph) ▶



WORLD

500,000 B.C.

40,000 B.C.

Cro-Magnons appear.

Early Human Migration to 10,000 years ago

INTERACTIVE



Fossil site
 Migration route
 Ancient coastline
 Extent of last glacier, 18,000 B.C.
 Land exposed by lower sea level, 18,000 B.C.



10,000 B.C.

10,000 B.C.

Last ice age ends.

▲ (glacier dividing, Alaska)

9000 B.C.

Domestication of animals begins.



8000 B.C.

First agriculture takes place with tools such as this wooden plow. ▶



6000 B.C.

◀ Improved farming methods lead to larger settlements, such as Catal Huyuk, from which this bronze deer comes.

5000 B.C.

First cities begin to develop.

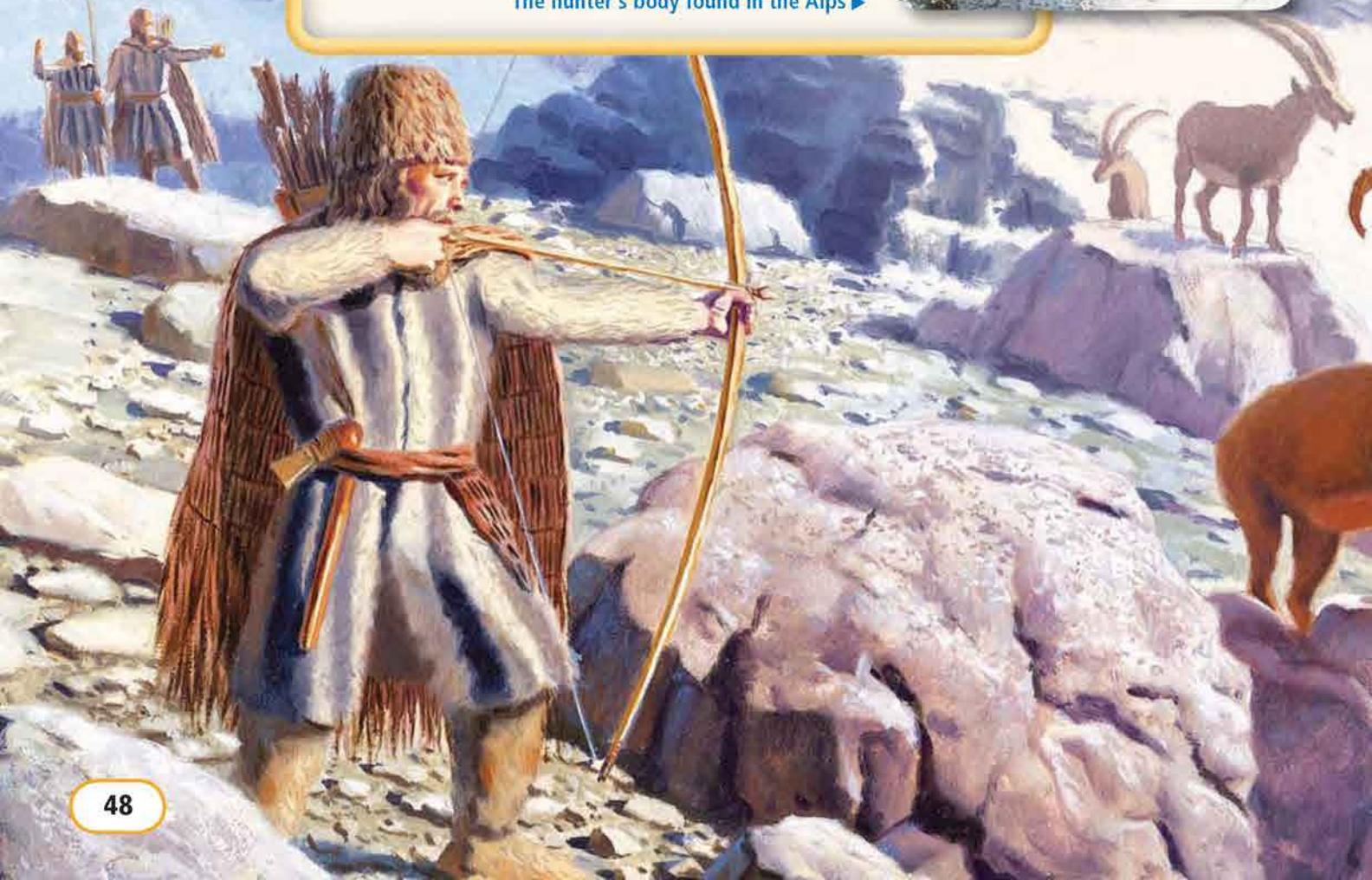
5000 B.C.

The Hunter OF THE Alps

Background: In 1991, a couple hiking in the Alps in Europe discovered the frozen body of a man. Ancient-looking tools and weapons lay near the body. A scientist studying early humans announced that this hunter was 5,300 years old. His body and belongings were well preserved by the cold.

Scientists nicknamed him the Iceman. They found an arrowhead in his shoulder. The contents of his stomach showed that his last meal, eaten just hours before his death, had included deer, barley, and wheat.

The hunter's body found in the Alps ►



The hunter had been walking since dawn. The air in the Alps was cold, but the morning fog had cleared up during the course of the day. He was glad of his warm fur hat, goatskin clothes, and grass cloak.

He had spent most of his life walking in these mountains. He had worn out many pairs of deerskin shoes. The ones he was wearing had soles of bearskin.

On this day, the mountain seemed steeper than usual. It might have been his age. The hunter was over 40, one of the oldest people in his community. But he could still easily carry everything he needed. His leather quiver contained a bow, arrow shafts, and arrows with flint heads. He was also carrying a flint dagger and an ax made of wood from a yew tree, with a copper blade. His belt pouch held three flint tools, a bone awl, and a piece of tinder. He also carried a medicine kit in case he became sick or injured.

Suddenly a man lunged toward him. The hunter struggled with him in an attempt to escape. He managed to free himself from the man's grasp and knock the ax out of his hand. He bounded away across the icy landscape. As he looked back, he saw that others had joined the pursuit.

As the hunter turned to run, he felt a searing pain in his shoulder. He'd been shot from behind with an arrow. With his last bit of strength, he struggled farther up the mountain. He found a narrow cave in the ice and managed to hide from his enemies. As night approached, it turned very cold, and snow began to fall. Snow covered the dying hunter, and his body remained undisturbed for more than 5,000 years. He was discovered by hikers in 1991, when an unusually warm year caused the ice to thaw. His body then was studied by scientists, revealing much about how prehistoric people lived.

What do you think life was like for early humans?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Reading Aloud** One way to read text fluently and accurately is to rehearse it. With a partner, read the text aloud. Practice those parts that give you trouble to gain the full dramatic effect.
- 2. WRITING: Description** Imagine that you are going to make a documentary film about the hunter. Write a brief description of the film.

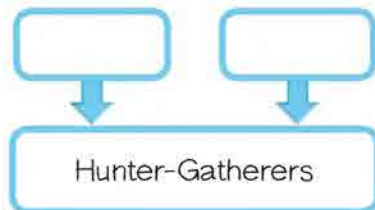
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Geography** Early humans adapted to the natural environment.
- 2 **Culture** Humans created tools to ensure survival and to improve life.
- 3 **Culture** Early humans developed language, religion, and art.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing

To summarize is to condense information into fewer words. Identify the main ideas and important details in this lesson. Then put them into your own words and record them in a graphic organizer like the one below.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3



▲ **Spear Thrower**
Prehistoric hunters used spear throwers to throw spears faster and farther. These devices greatly improved their ability to hunt animals.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

band a group of people or animals acting together (page 52)

*Small **bands** of hunters searched for animals to kill for their meat and skins.*

community a group of people with close ties living in one area (page 52)

*Hunters provided meat for the new **communities**, which had grown large.*

apply to put into action or use (page 53)

*They were able to **apply** their knowledge of stone carving to make tools and weapons.*

spirit the part of a being believed to control thinking and feeling; the soul (page 54)

*He asked the tree's **spirit** to forgive him before he took its bark to use for his shelter.*

Hunters and Gatherers

TERMS & NAMES

hunter-gatherer
nomad
migration
technology
religion

Build on What You Know Have you ever gone camping? How would you survive if you got lost in the woods? Where would you find food and water? In this chapter, you will learn how early humans got food to eat, how they lived, and what tools they used.

Early Humans' Way of Life

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did early humans interact with the environment?

Like early humans, you interact with the natural environment every day, often without thinking about it. You interact with the weather by wearing boots in the snow or sunglasses in the sunshine. Even your food is a product of the environment.

Hunter-Gatherers Adapt to Environments Early humans were **hunter-gatherers**. They hunted animals and gathered plants for food. When hunter-gatherers no longer had enough to eat, they moved to another location.

Early humans also depended on the natural environment for shelter. Some groups lived in caves and rock shelters. People who lived on plains or in desert areas may have made shelters out of branches, plant fibers, or animal skins.

African Savannah
This photograph shows the kind of landscape over which the first hunter-gatherers roamed. Savannahs cover 40 percent of the African continent. ▼



Small Bands Hunter-gatherers lived together in small bands, each made up of several families. The size of a group—probably around 30 people—reflected the number of people who could live off the plants and animals in a given region. Men hunted and fished. Women gathered foods, such as berries and nuts from plants that grew wild. They cared for the children, who also worked.

Early Humans on the Move Hunter-gatherers were **nomads**, people who move from place to place. Movement often was limited. Groups returned to the same places with the changes of seasons. At certain times of the year, these early bands joined together, forming larger communities. There was probably time for storytelling, meeting friends, and finding marriage partners.

Early humans also moved to new and distant lands. The act of moving from one place to settle in another is called **migration**. Migrations may have been the result of people's following animals to hunt. By around 15,000 B.C., hunter-gatherers had migrated throughout much of the world. They even traveled across a land bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska. In this way, they entered the Americas.

Distribution of Hunter-Gatherers, 15,000 B.C.–A.D. 2000

INTERACTIVE

15,000 B.C.



A.D. 1500



Hunter-gatherer peoples

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement What has happened to the distribution of hunter-gatherers between 15,000 B.C. and the present?

A.D. 2000



The arrival of a migrating group in the territory of another people could lead to both good and bad outcomes. Everyone benefited when knowledge and tools were shared. However, people sometimes turned violent when they felt threatened by newcomers. They feared that the newcomers might try to take their territory. Sometimes they may have feared them just because they were different.

REVIEW Why did hunter-gatherers move often?

The Development of Tools

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What were some tools created by early humans?

Imagine that you are planning a camping trip. Think about what tools you will take to make sure your trip is safe and enjoyable. Like you, early humans relied on tools.

The Use of Fire Around 500,000 years ago, early humans learned to make and control fire. Fire provided heat and light, and it enabled people to cook food. A good fire offered protection from animals. Early humans also used fire to temper, or harden, tools made of metal.

The Development of Technology **Technology** consists of all of the ways in which people apply knowledge, tools, and inventions to meet their needs. Technology dates back to early humans. At least 2 million years ago, people made stone tools for cutting. Early humans also made carrying bags, stone hand axes, awls (tools for piercing holes in leather or wood), and drills.

In time, humans developed more complex tools, such as hunting bows made of wood. They learned to make flint spearheads and metal tools. Early humans used tools to hunt and butcher animals and to construct simple forms of shelter. Technology—these new tools—gave humans more control over their environment. These tools also set the stage for a more settled way of life.

REVIEW How did early humans use fire?



▲ **Early Tools** Among the tools used by early humans were the mattock (a digging tool), the harpoon, and the ax.

Vocabulary Strategy

You can figure out what *technology* means from its **root** and **suffix**. The Greek root *techn* means "craft" or "skill." The suffix *-logy* means "study of." *Technology* means "the study and application of crafts or skills."

Early Human Culture

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What kind of culture did early humans create?

What sets humans apart from other creatures? Art, language, and religion are special to humans and help create their culture.

Language Human language probably developed as a result of the need for people to work together. One theory suggests that the need for cooperation during the hunt spurred language development. Hunters needed to be able to talk to one another in order to outsmart, trap, and kill animals for food. Another theory suggests that the cooperation needed to gather and share food led to the development of language.

Religion Religion is the worship of God, gods, or spirits. Early humans probably believed that everything in nature, including rocks, trees, and animals, had a spirit. Some archaeologists believe that early cave paintings of animals were made to honor the spirits of animals killed for food.

Comparisons Across Cultures

Prehistoric Cave Art

Prehistoric people in different parts of the world painted scenes on cave walls. Such rock paintings are among the oldest art in the world.

The cave art on the top was done by a Native American artist in Utah. The painting shows a holy man holding a snake. Snakes were seen as links between the human and underground worlds.

The painting at the bottom was done by an Australian Aboriginal artist. It shows a dreamtime spirit. Dreamtime is a supernatural past in which ancestor spirits shaped the natural world.

SKILLBUILDER

INTERPRETING VISUALS

Making Inferences What do these examples tell you about early human art? On the basis of their art, how important does religion seem to have been in the lives of prehistoric peoples?



Art Prehistoric art gives us insights into humans' daily life and shared beliefs. Early humans created art in caves and rock shelters. They also created art they could carry with them.

More than 200 sites of early cave art have been discovered in France and Spain. Cave paintings thousands of years old show lively images of bulls, stallions, and bison. Prehistoric art exists in Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas.

Jewelry and figurines are examples of portable art. Early humans may have worn these items. Other items may have had religious meaning. Art also included music, dance, and stories—art that could be performed anywhere.

Antler Headdress This red-deer antler headdress, which is about 9,500 years old, may have been used as a disguise in hunting or worn in hunting ceremonies. ▼

REVIEW What were the main elements of prehistoric culture?

Lesson Summary

- Hunter-gatherers were nomads.
- Fire and tools improved lives.
- Early humans created language, religion, and art.



Why It Matters Now . . .

Early humans created the first tools. Today technology continues to improve our lives and help us survive.

1 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| hunter-gatherer | migration | religion |
| nomad | technology | |

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed graphic organizer to answer the following question:

2. How did hunter-gatherers live?



Homework Helper
ClassZone.com

Main Ideas

3. How did prehistoric people use available natural resources for food, housing, and clothing?
4. How did the development of tools change the life of early humans?
5. Where are some of the places that prehistoric art has been found?

Critical Thinking

6. **Comparing and Contrasting** How was cave art different from other kinds of art created by early humans?
7. **Drawing Conclusions** What does their art tell us about early humans?

Activity

Making a Map Use the map on pages A6-A7 of the Atlas to sketch a world outline map. You will add to this map in later units. Use the map on page 52 to mark the location of the hunter-gatherer group closest to where you live.

Finding Main Ideas

Goal: To identify the main idea of a passage in order to better understand hunter-gatherer societies

Learn the Skill

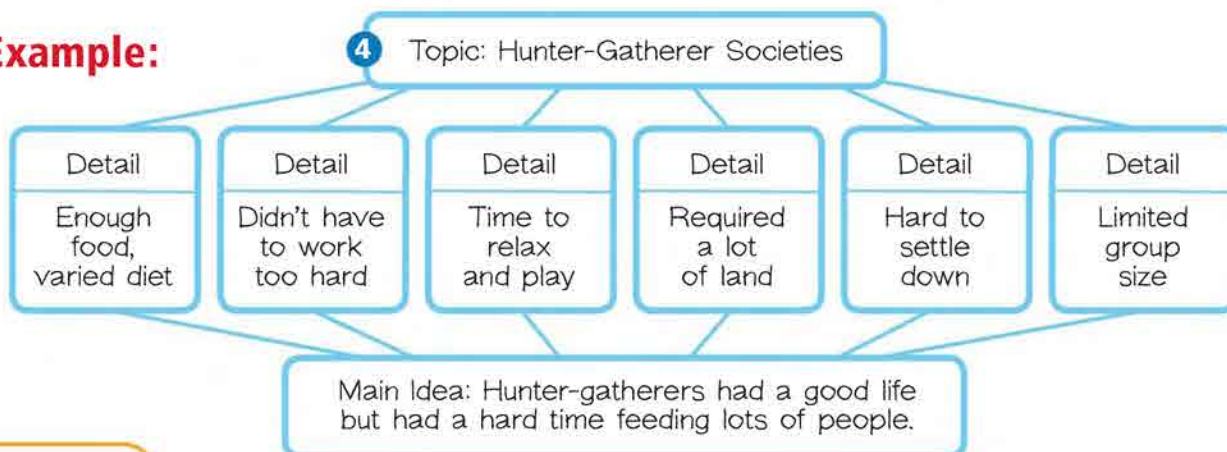
A main idea is the most important point in a paragraph or a passage. A main idea may or may not be stated in so many words. In the example to the right, the main idea is not stated. To find the main idea of a passage, identify the topic. Then, as you read, ask yourself this question: What main idea do the details and examples support?

 See the Skillbuilder Handbook, page R2.

Practice the Skill

- 1 Ask yourself what the passage at right, titled “Hunter-Gatherer Societies,” is about. Identify the topic by first looking at the title. The title tells you this passage is about what hunter-gatherer societies were like.
- 2 Look at the first and last sentences of each paragraph. These sentences often give clues to the main idea. See if any one sentence sums up the point of the whole passage. In this passage the main idea comes from combining the ideas in these sentences.
- 3 Read the entire passage. Look for details about the topic. What main idea do they explain or support? This passage contains details about both the good and the bad parts of hunter-gatherers’ lives.
- 4 Use a chart like the one below to state the topic and list the supporting details. Use the information you record to help you state the main idea. This chart is based on the passage you just read.

Example:



Secondary Source

Ideas about life in hunter-gatherer societies have changed since the 1960s. Until then, most scholars thought that ancient peoples' lives were very hard. Now many scholars have changed their minds. They have based their ideas on studies of hunter-gatherers in the modern world—groups who still live by hunting animals and gathering plants for food.

1 Hunter-Gatherer Societies

2 Many scholars now believe that the lives of most hunter-gatherers were quite good. Their environment gave them all the kinds of food they needed. They had a varied diet of meat, fish, fruit, and wild plants. This diet was healthy and balanced. Usually, hunting and gathering did not require too much time and energy. People had time to relax, visit with friends, and play games. 2

3 2 Yet there were limits to the hunter-gatherer way of life. A lot of land was required to support a group of people. The group needed to roam across 7 to 500 square miles per person to get enough food. It was hard to settle in villages because people needed to move often to find food. They owned only what they could carry, and their houses had to be very simple. The groups had to be small, probably no more than about 30 people. As groups consumed the food in various areas, it became harder for societies to feed their people just by hunting and gathering. 2



▲ Game Animals This rock painting in Tanzania shows the possible favorite game animals of hunters.

Apply the Skill

Turn to Chapter 1, Lesson 2, pages 17–19. Read “Different Maps for Different Purposes.” Make a chart like the one at left to help you find the main ideas. Identify the topic, the most important details, and the main idea of the passage.