

Mountain fire
Trees animals

What evidence do we have about life during the Paleolithic Era?

Objective:

- **Identify** sources historians use to learn about prehistory.
- **Evaluate** the usefulness of sources of information about prehistory.



Introduction

The image below shows Paleolithic people around a fire. An artist created this image to show the Paleolithic lifestyle that humans engaged in.

Predict

— Directions: Examine the image below, then fill out the chart with what you see, think and wonder about Paleolithic life.



Image is courtesy of phaboy and is published under the CC-0 license

Review: Identify one geographic feature in this image above.

See

List three things you **see** in the image above.

Think

Based on your observations, what do you **think** life was like for people during the Paleolithic Era?

Wonder

Write two questions you have about the picture above.

See

List three things you *see* in the image above.

Mountain fire
Trees animals
People - long hair
wearing animal fur

Think

Based on your observations, what do you *think* life was like for people during the Paleolithic Era?

Hard life - No modern medicine.
Used animals for food + clothes.
had to follow animals, can't stay in
one place. Violent - had to hunt ^{wash} mammoth.

Wonder

Write two questions you have about the picture above.

How do they survive in the winter?
How did it feel to wear those clothes?
How did they make their clothes?
Did they clean themselves? How?

Contextualize the Paleolithic Era

BC

A.D.

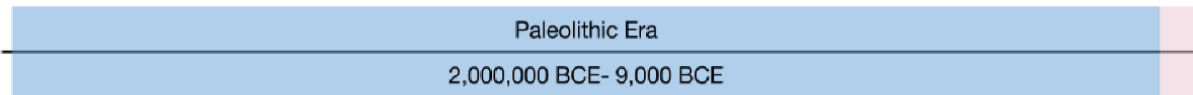


Contextualize

What is B.C.E? B.C.E. stands for **Before Common Era**. This means that the date came before the year "1 C.E. (Common Era)." B.C.E. is commonly written as B.C. which stands for "Before Christ" and represents all time before the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, whom Christians believe was the son of God. C.E. is often referred to as "A.D." which stands for *Anno Domini*, or "in the year of the Lord."

The Paleolithic Era, or Old Stone Age, was the time period from 2,000,000 B.C.E. to about 9,000 B.C.E.

Timeline of Human Existence*



* the genus "homo" begins around 2,000,000 BCE, but modern humans, "homo sapiens," evolved around 250,000 BCE

The rest of human history after the start of farming

The Paleolithic Era, also known as the Stone Age, is the time period from the evolution of the genus "homo," human-like beings, to around 9,000 BCE when modern day humans started to farm. Modern-day humans evolved around 250,000 BCE, then spread across the world in search of food.

During this time, humans did not live in villages, towns, or cities. Instead, they lived in small groups of less than 100 people and lived a **nomadic** lifestyle.

Nomads are people who frequently move from place to place in search of food, never living in one place for very long. Paleolithic nomads were **hunter-gatherers**, meaning that they got their food from foraging, the act of finding food, and through hunting or fishing.

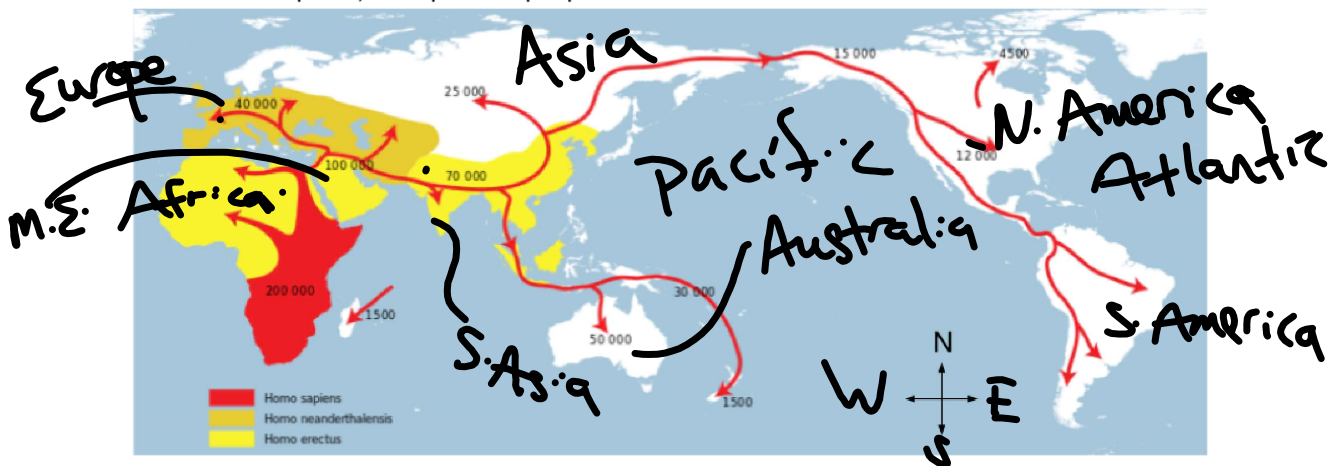
This passage was adapted by New Visions from the [Paleolithic Age article](#) on New World Encyclopedia which is published under the [CC-BY-SA 3.0 license](#)

1. When was the Paleolithic Era?	2. Why did humans spread around the world?	3. What are nomads?	4. How did Paleolithic people get their food?
2,000,000 BCE - 9,000 BCE	to search for food	people who move from place to place	hunting, fishing, gathering

UNIT 2 | The First Civilizations | SQ 8: What evidence do we have about life during the Paleolithic Era?

Migration of Humans from Africa to the Rest of the World

→ Directions: Examine the map below, then respond to the prompts that follow.



The red arrows on this map depict the spread of modern-day humans (homo sapiens) out of Africa during the Paleolithic Era. Humans followed migrating animal herds and moved into areas with more food to gather until they spread around the world. The numbers identify how many years ago (i.e.: 70,000 years ago) humans arrived in each area.

Image modified by New Visions (CC BY-SA-NC). Original image is from Wikimedia and is in the public domain.

<p>1. Label the following bodies of water, continents, and regions on the map above:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Atlantic Ocean</td> <td>Mediterranean Sea</td> <td>North America</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pacific Ocean</td> <td>Africa</td> <td>South America</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Indian Ocean</td> <td>Asia</td> <td>Middle East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Southern Ocean</td> <td>Australia</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Atlantic Ocean	Mediterranean Sea	North America	Pacific Ocean	Africa	South America	Indian Ocean	Asia	Middle East	Southern Ocean	Australia		<p>2. Place the following regions and continents in order from the first place where humans lived, to the last place where they settled.</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>1 Africa</td> <td>6 Europe</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8 North America</td> <td>2 South Africa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 Middle East</td> <td>4 South Asia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7 Asia</td> <td>5 Australia</td> </tr> </table>	1 Africa	6 Europe	8 North America	2 South Africa	3 Middle East	4 South Asia	7 Asia	5 Australia	<p>3. Based on the map above, about how long did it take for humans to migrate to North America from Africa?</p> <p>1881,000</p> <hr/> <p>4. What direction did humans have to travel to get from Asia to North America?</p> <p>East</p>
Atlantic Ocean	Mediterranean Sea	North America																				
Pacific Ocean	Africa	South America																				
Indian Ocean	Asia	Middle East																				
Southern Ocean	Australia																					
1 Africa	6 Europe																					
8 North America	2 South Africa																					
3 Middle East	4 South Asia																					
7 Asia	5 Australia																					



How do we know what we know about prehistory? How is our knowledge limited?

"Prehistory" refers to a time before humans had a written language. The Paleolithic Era took place during prehistory. Since there are no written records, historians rely on other evidence to construct what life was like.

Source

→ Directions: For each of the sources below, identify what historians might be able to learn about the Paleolithic Era and what limitations each source has for historians.

Artifacts



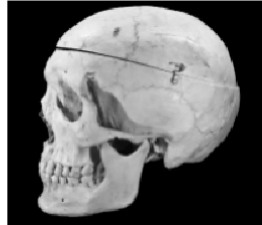
Image modified by New Visions (CC BY-SA-NC). Original image is from Wikimedia and is in the public domain. Great Pyramid (2347859542).jpg by Francisco Anzola is published under the Creative Commons Attribution 7.0 Generic license

Artifacts are objects made by humans like tools, buildings, weapons, art, pottery, and clothing that are usually found and studied by archaeologists. **Archaeology** is the study of the past through what has been left behind.

1. What can historians learn from artifacts?
what items were left behind + what they were used for.

2. What limits do artifacts have as historical sources?
Archaeologists have to make educated guesses what they were used for.

Skeletons



Crane2.png by Didier Descouens is published under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license

Anthropology is the study of the origins and development of people and their society. Some anthropologists study human skeletons to figure out how they lived, what they ate, and how they died.

3. What can historians learn from skeletons?
how people died, what they ate, how they lived.

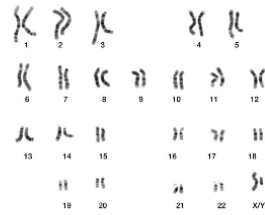
4. What limits do skeletons have as historical sources?
They may only find part of the skeleton, not the whole body.

Modern Day Societies



Image modified by New Visions from original [San tribesman.jpg](#) by Ian Beatty and is published under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic](#) license

Genomic Testing



DNA, human male chromosomes [image](#) is courtesy of Wikimedia and is in the public domain

Anthropologists study modern-day societies to understand how people lived in the past.

Scientists can use genetic tests to determine where and when groups of humans migrated in the past. They can also figure out which groups of people came into contact with one another through genetic markers.

5. What can historians learn from studying modern societies?

7. What can historians learn from genomic testing?

6. What limits do anthropological studies of modern societies have as historical sources?

8. What limits does genomic testing have as a historical source?

FA

SQ 8: What evidence do we have about life during the Paleolithic Era?

→ **Directions:** Based on what you have learned, complete the task below.



Part I

Identify sources historians use to learn about prehistory.

Source



[Image](#) is courtesy of pixabay and is published under the [CC-0](#) license

The picture above is an image of Paleolithic people around a fire. An artist created this image to show the Paleolithic lifestyle that humans once engaged in.

1. What sources might the artist who created this picture have used?

2. How might this picture be useful in determining what life was like during the Paleolithic Era?

3. How might this picture not be useful in determining what life was like during the Paleolithic Era?