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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>See</th>
<th>List three things you see in the image above.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think</td>
<td>Based on your observations, what do you think life was like for people during the Paleolithic Era?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wonder</td>
<td>Write two questions you have about the picture above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 2007 by The Flex Collection 1018. What evidence do we have about life during the Paleolithic Era.
See
List three things you see in the image above.

Mountain fire animals
Trees
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 mostly meat.

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?

2) The First Civilizations | EQ 1: What evidence do we have about life during the Paleolithic Era?
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. When was the Paleolithic Era?</th>
<th>2. Why did humans spread around the world?</th>
<th>3. What are nomads?</th>
<th>4. How did Paleolithic people get their food?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9,000 BCE</td>
<td>to search for food</td>
<td>People would move from place to place</td>
<td>Hunting, fishing, gathering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2,000,000 BCE</td>
<td></td>
<td>People would move from place to place</td>
<td>Hunting, fishing, gathering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

1. Label the following bodies of water, continents, and regions on the map above:
   - Atlantic Ocean
   - Mediterranean Sea
   - North America
   - South America
   - Pacific Ocean
   - Africa
   - Asia
   - Australia

2. Place the following regions and continents in order from the first place where humans lived, to the last place where they settled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>North America</th>
<th>Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>North America</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Middle East</td>
<td>South America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>South Asia</td>
<td>Australia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Based on the map above, about how long did it take for humans to migrate to North America from Africa?
   - 18,000 years

4. What direction did humans have to travel to get from Asia to North America?
   - East
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.

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 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.

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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Modern Day Societies</th>
<th>Genomic Testing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5. What can historians learn from studying modern societies?</th>
<th>7. What can historians learn from genomic testing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>6. What limits do anthropological studies of modern societies have as historical sources?</th>
<th>8. What limits does genomic testing have as a historical source?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
SQ8. 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

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?

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.