

The Peopling of the World, Prehistory–2500 B.C.

Previewing Main Ideas

INTERACTION WITH ENVIRONMENT As early humans spread out over the world, they adapted to each environment they encountered. As time progressed, they learned to use natural resources.

Geography *Study the time line and the map. Where in Africa did human life begin?*

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY The earliest peoples came up with new ideas and inventions in order to survive. As people began to live in settlements, they continued to develop new technology to control the environment.

Geography *Early humans began to migrate about 1.8 million years ago. What paths did these migrations take?*

ECONOMICS Early humans hunted animals and gathered wild plant foods for 3 to 4 million years. Then about 10,000 years ago, they learned to tame animals and to plant crops. Gradually, more complex economies developed.

Geography *Early settlement sites often were near rivers. Why might they have been located there?*

INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY

eEdition

- Interactive Maps
- Interactive Visuals
- Interactive Primary Sources



INTERNET RESOURCES

Go to classzone.com for:

- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Primary Sources
- Chapter Quiz
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events

4,000,000 B.C.
First hominids appear in Africa.
(early hominid footprint)



1,600,000 B.C.
Homo erectus
appears.

200,000 B.C.
Neanderthals
appear.

WORLD

4,000,000 B.C.

2,500,000 B.C.
Paleolithic Age begins.
(Paleolithic lunar calendar) ▶



Prehistoric World to 2500 B.C.



40,000 B.C.
Cro-Magnons emerge.



8000 B.C.
Neolithic Age begins;
first agriculture takes place.



3000 B.C.
Bronze Age
well-established
in Mesopotamia.



2600 B.C.
City of Ur
flourishes in Sumer.

2500 B.C.

How would these tools help early humans survive?

You have joined a team of scientists on an expedition to an ancient site where early humans once lived. The scientists' goal is to search for evidence that might unlock the mysteries of the past.

You're an eyewitness to their astounding discovery—human-made tools about 5,000 years old. They belonged to the so-called Ice Man, discovered in 1991. (See History in Depth, page 15.)



A birch-bark container



The remnants of a backpack



An axe



A dagger and its sheath

EXAMINING *the* ISSUES

- **What did early humans need to do to survive?**
- **What physical actions would these tools help humans do?**

As a class, discuss these questions. In your discussion, think about recent tools and inventions that have changed people's lives. As you read about the ancestors of present-day humans, notice how early toolmakers applied their creativity and problem-solving skills.