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The Paleolithic Era Old Stone Age: 40,000 B.C.E. to 10,000 B.C.E.

Primitive humans began life in the “Stone Age.”

Archaeologists have found Stone Age settlements in East Africa, Asia, and the Americas. What do we call them? *Paleolithic people,* Stone agers, primitive humans, cave men. They were *hunters and gatherers.*

They hunted wild game and fished; they gathered veggies, berries and nuts. Like contestants on the TV show “Survivor,” primitive humans *depended* entirely on nature for food.
Describe the hunter-gatherer societies, including the development of tools and the use of fire.

The Paleolithic Era Old Stone Age: 40,000 B.C. to 10,000 B.C.

People began living in **GROUPS**

Have you ever seen a wild animal? One guy simply won’t do. You need a group of hunters. Primitive humans banded together in small groups to go hunting. For this reason, they lived together in small groups.

The groups were related families. A group of related families is a **clan**.
Unless you can talk to one another, it’s hard to catch and kill wild game. After all, you and the other hunters need to develop a strategy and tactics to corner and kill it.

There is evidence that folks in early hunting bands developed a primitive language.
Wild game is nomadic - animals follow the grass. When it rains in one spot, the grass grows there. Animals migrate - to follow the grass. Primitive humans, therefore, followed wild animals from place to place. Where possible, they lived together in caves. Have you ever seen the film “Clan of the Cave Bear”?

When there were no caves (which was the norm), people made lean-to shelters. Again, the folks on “Survivor” made lean-to shelters out of branches and grass.
Primitive humans used simple stone tools to get more food. They used a hard, flaky stone called **flint**. They used a pointy piece of flint to stab fish and game. And as a knife to cut food.

As every “Survivor” fan knows, the first thing you must do is . . . **Get fire**! Without fire, you cannot cook fish and meat. Without fire, you cannot keep wild animals away from camp at night. Creating fire is no easy matter.
“Discuss the *climate changes and human modifications of the physical environment that gave rise to the domestication of plants and animals and new sources of clothing and shelter.*”

**Neolithic Age--New Stone Age:** ca. 10,000 to ca. 3500 B.C.

**The Agricultural Revolution!**

The Causes--- Around 10,000 years ago, the *Ice Age ended.* The ice sheets retreated to Greenland. Ice sheets are glaciers.

As the glaciers retreated, the *climate grew warmer.*
Neolithic Age--- New Stone Age: ca. 10,000 to ca. 3500 B.C.
The Agricultural Revolution!

Animals (like the woolly mammoth) became extinct. As a result of the climate change, people switched from hunting to farming!

After 10,000 B.C., many people settled down to farming.
The Consequences: The agricultural revolution changed the way people obtained their food. Long-term changes:

- End of the nomadic lifestyle,
- construction of permanent communities,
- the beginning of private property,
- development of specialized occupations,
- increase in food supply, and population growth.
Neolithic Age--- New Stone Age: ca. 10,000 to ca. 3500 B.C.
The Agricultural Revolution!

Instead of wandering around, hunting for game and gathering berries . . . many people settled down to full-time farming.

They built houses and lived in villages. To settle disputes, a chief and council arose in each village to settle land disputes.
Invention of farm tools--To clear away trees and plant food, people attached flint to wood - and created the axe. To turn over the soil, people used granite and created the hoe.

Domestication of plants and animals--The first wild plants to be “tamed” were grains (wheat, barley, oats) and vegetables.
The first wild animals to be tamed were dogs, goats, sheep, and cattle.

Draft animals--A primitive harness was invented! From now on, farmers used ox-drawn plows. The wheel was invented! From now on, farmers hauled things in animal-drawn carts. The sail was invented! From now on, fishermen could travel farther and faster.
Weaving-- Farmers raised sheep and wove wool into fabric. They raised flax. Using fibers from its stem, they wove linen.

Once folks learned to weave fabric, they no longer had to wear animal skins.

Once folks learned how to weave, they wove fishing nets and baskets.

Pottery-- The potter’s wheel was invented! From now on, farmers made pottery. They stored water and grain in pottery.
Metalworking

Copper was the first metal to be mined; it was turned into tools and weapons.

Bronze was invented when people mixed copper and tin. It was tougher than copper.

Once folks learned how to make metal tools, the Stone Age was over!
Cities

Around 3500 B.C.E., some villages grew into cities. **Once people build a city, they are living in a civilization.**