

PREHISTORY

Prehistory is the longest period in human history. It extends from the appearance of the first human beings to the invention of writing (between 2 million years BCE and 3.500 years BC). Prehistory is divided into **three periods**:

The Paleolithic Age or Old Stone Age began with the appearance of our first ancestors, about 2 million years ago. It was the longest phase of human history. Paleolithic peoples were generally nomadic hunters and gatherers. They lived in caves, used fire, made stone tools and painted in the cave.













The Neolithic or New Stone Age began when the agriculture is discovered between 9000 and 7000 BC. In this period, groups of human beings started to live in settled villages. They practised agriculture, domesticated animals and invented pottery and textiles.

The Metal Age began when human beings learned to use metals to make objects (5.000 years BC), mainly copper, bronze and iron. They built monuments with big blocks of stone, called menhirs, dolmens and stone circles.

Activities:

1. Complete this text:
 - a. The Palaeolithic Age started _____ years ago.
 - b. The _____ Age started _____ years ago.
 - c. The _____ Age started _____ years ago.

2. Write the period of prehistory below the pictures:

			
_____	_____	_____	_____
			
_____	_____	_____	_____
			
_____	_____	_____	_____

LIFE IN THE PALAEOLITHIC AGE:

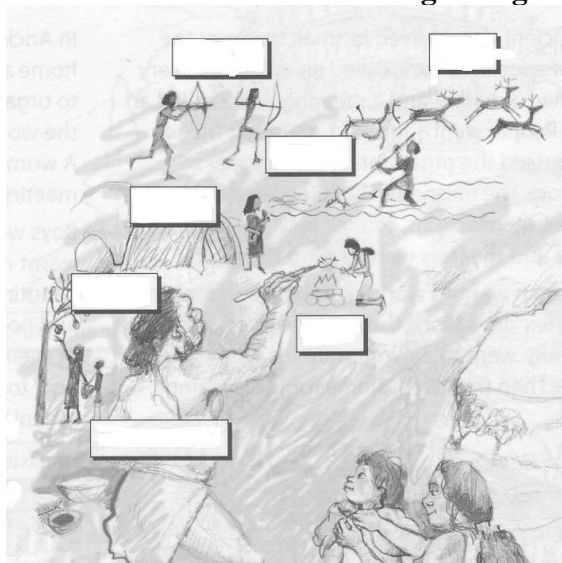
- The first human beings lived from hunting (mammoth, bears, elephants, deer, bison...), fishing and gathering wild fruit.
- They were nomadic: they did not live in a fixed place.
- They lived in caves, outdoors, or in wood huts.
- They were organised in small tribes, made up of members of the same family.
- They made tools and objects of stone to hunt and cut animals' skins and meat.
- Fire was an important discovery. They used fire to heat their caves, cook food and drive wild animals away.
- They believed in supernatural forces which helped them in hunting, births... and they believed in an afterlife.

Activities:**1. True or False. Then correct the false sentences.**

- Cave people lived in small groups.
- They always lived in the same place.
- They used fire to cook their food.
- They made their clothes from plastic material.
- Cave paintings show the life of the cave people.

2. Look and complete the picture with the following words:

Hunting - fire - deer - animal skin - fishing - gathering - wood hut

**3. Fill in the following sentences using these words:**

Scientists - Mammoths - hunting - extinction - years - weather - disappeared

_____ are the ancestors of elephants.

They become extinct a million _____ ago. Why did this happen?

Scientists believed that it was due to climate change: the _____ became hotter and the mammoths could not adapt.

But other _____ have discovered that mammoths _____ gradually.

Was the _____ of mammoths caused by _____?

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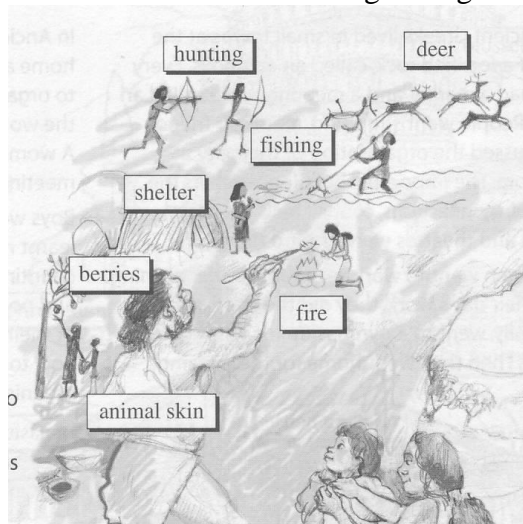
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Mammoths are the ancestors of elephants.

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But other scientists have discovered that mammoths disappeared gradually.

Was the extinction of mammoths caused by hunting?

CAN YOU SURVIVE IN THE ICE AGE?

Answer the following questions:

1. Where do you find your food during the Ice Age?

- Shops
- Farms
- Wild animals

2. What are your clothes made of?

- Leather
- Wool and cotton
- Polyester and acrylic

3. Can you hunt animals using...

- Bow and arrow
- Spears and traps
- Guns

4. Which materials do you use to make tools?

- Metals
- Stones, bones, antlers and ivory
- Plastics

5. Where would you live?

- Wooden huts and caves
- Houses
- Castles

If you scored 5 well done, the freezing cold of the Ice Age should not be a problem for you

If you scored 4 good works, we suggest you look at the answers so you can be sure of survival

If you scored 3 your survival is in the balance, perhaps you need to take the test again!

If you scored 2 and 1 you have no chance of surviving

If you scored 0 let's hope you never have to go out in the cold!