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英文注释

WORLD HISTORY

世界历史

EARLY HUMANS & THE FIRST CIVILIZATIONS

文明的起源

Richard Easby（美）编

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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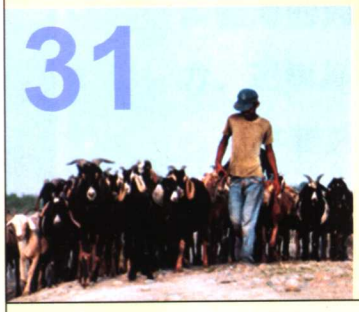

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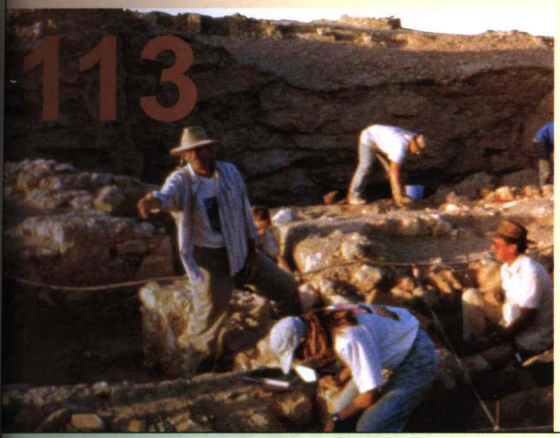

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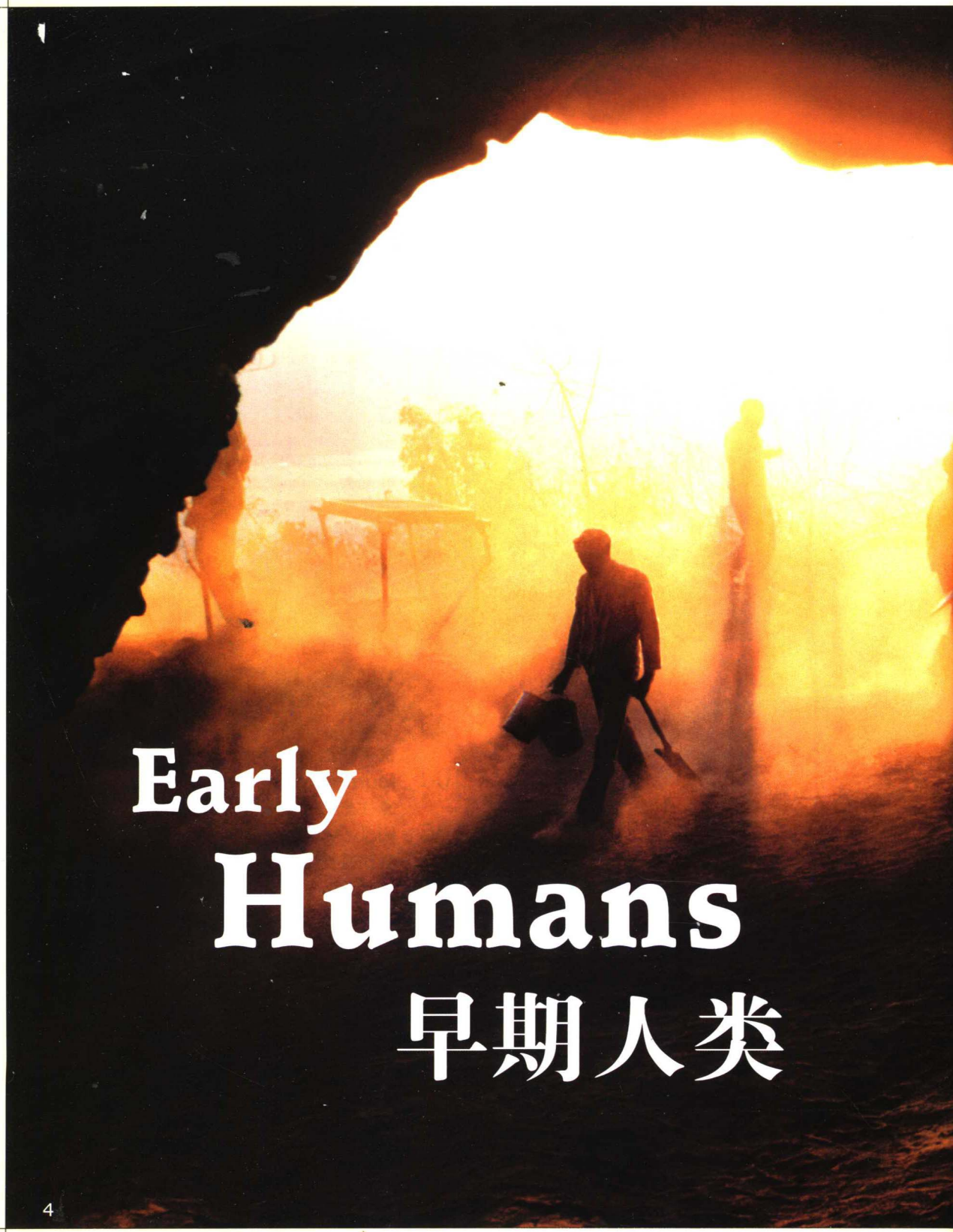
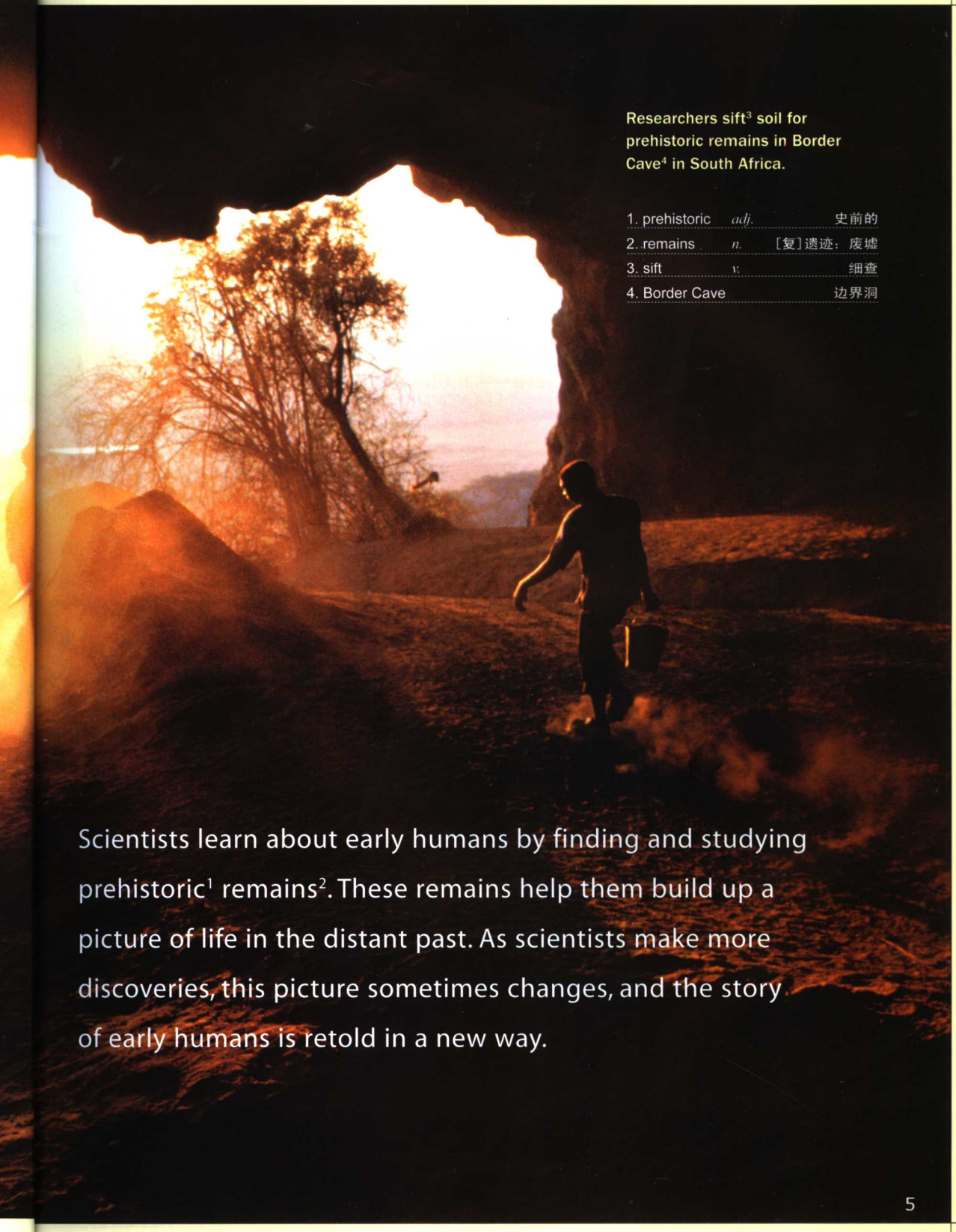


Early Humans
早期人类



Researchers sift[3] soil for prehistoric remains in Border Cave[4] in South Africa.

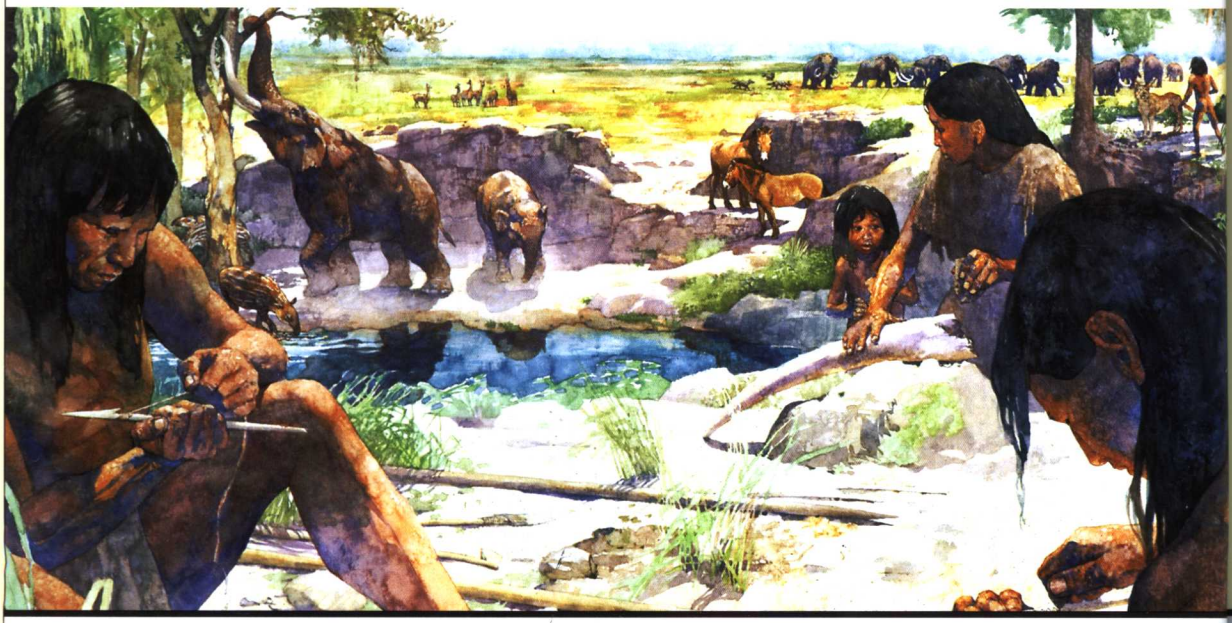
1. prehistoric	*adj.*	史前的
2. remains	*n.*	[复]遗迹；废墟
3. sift	*v.*	细查
4. Border Cave		边界洞

Scientists learn about early humans by finding and studying prehistoric[1] remains[2]. These remains help them build up a picture of life in the distant past. As scientists make more discoveries, this picture sometimes changes, and the story of early humans is retold in a new way.

THE STORY OF EARLY HUMANS begins far back in the prehistoric past. What is prehistory? How does it differ from history? History is a record of the past. In a very important way, this record only begins with the invention of writing about 5,000 years ago. However, human beings have existed on Earth far longer than that. What happened before the invention of writing is prehistory.

An important part of the story of early humans took place during the Stone Age[1]. The Stone Age began in Africa about 2.5 million years ago, when the ancestors[2] of modern humans first began making stone tools. Scientists divide this period into two sections. The Paleolithic ("Old Stone") Age[3] was very long. It lasted from the time of the earliest stone tools to about 10,000 years ago. The Neolithic ("New Stone") Age[4] was much shorter, lasting about 5,000 years.

1. Stone Age		石器时代
2. ancestor	*n.*	祖先
3. Paleolithic Age		旧石器时代
4. Neolithic Age		新石器时代



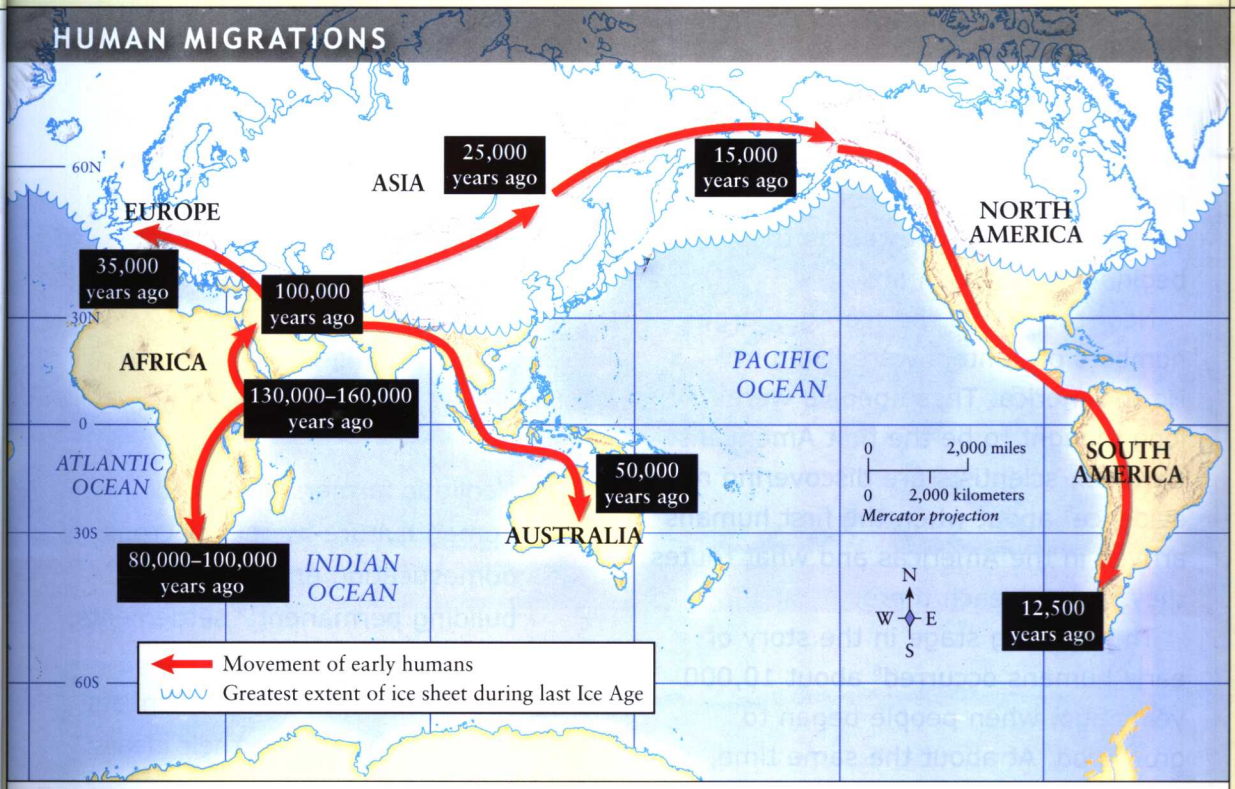
The Stone Age

2.5 million years ago

Paleolithic Age begins

35,000 years ago

Modern humans in Europe



During most of the Stone Age, early humans traveled in small groups. They moved from place to place, hunting animals and gathering wild plants.

Another important part of the human story began during the last Ice Age[1]. An Ice Age is a period during which the climate[2] grows colder and ice covers large parts of Earth's surface[3]. Near the end of the last Ice Age, early humans learned to use language, make finely crafted[4] tools, live in highly organized social groups, and produce art. By about 35,000 years ago, the Ice Age hunters who were the direct ancestors of modern humans had migrated[5] to Europe.

1. Ice Age		冰河时代（在新生代的第四纪）
2. climate	*n.*	气候
3. surface	*n.*	表面
4. craft	*v.*	手工制作
5. migrate	*v.*	移居；迁徙

10,000 years ago — Neolithic Age begins

5,000 years ago — Stone Age ends

They decorated[1] the walls of caves and rock shelters[2] with lifelike[3] paintings and carvings[4] of animals. These images are viewed as the beginning of human art.

Near the end of the Ice Age, large numbers of hunters were living in North America. These people were long thought to be the first Americans. However, scientists are discovering new evidence[5] about when the first humans arrived in the Americas and what routes they took to reach there.

The next big stage in the story of early humans occurred[6] about 10,000 years ago, when people began to grow food. At about the same time, these early farmers domesticated[7], or tamed[8], wild sheep and goats, which became the first domestic animals. By growing crops and raising livestock[9], early humans changed from hunter-gatherers to food-producers. This Neolithic Revolution[10] is one of the great breakthroughs[11] in human history.

Freed from wandering to hunt for food, the first farmers settled[12] in one place. These farming villages became the first towns.

The articles in this part describe the lives of early humans during the Stone Age and how scientists continue to unearth[13] new clues[14] about the past. To guide your reading, the articles have been organized around the following three **BIG IDEAS**:

1 Paleolithic hunters developed basic human characteristics, including toolmaking, social groups, and the creation of art.

2 Neolithic farmers advanced human culture by raising crops, domesticating animals, and building permanent[15] settlements.

3 New discoveries cause scientists to add to or change their ideas about early humans.

As you read, keep these ideas in mind. They will help you understand how early humans lived and how scientific ideas about prehistoric life continue to change today.

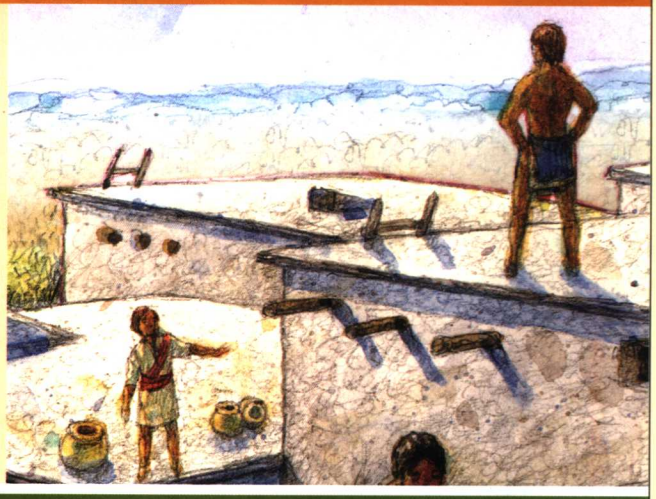
1. decorate	*v.*	装饰
2. shelter	*n.*	庇护所；躲避处
3. lifelike	*adj.*	逼真的
4. carving	*n.*	雕刻品
5. evidence	*n.*	证据；迹象
6. occur	*v.*	发生
7. domesticate	*v.*	驯养
8. tame	*v.*	驯服；驯化
9. livestock	*n.*	家畜；牲畜
10. Neolithic Revolution		新石器革命
11. breakthrough	*n.*	突破
12. settle	*v.*	定居；安家
13. unearth	*v.*	发现
14. clue	*n.*	线索
15. permanent	*adj.*	永久的

BIG IDEA: BECOMING HUMAN

Painting and carving images of animals on the walls of caves, Ice Age hunters produced some of the first art.

BIG IDEA: THE FIRST FARMERS

Farming settlements in southwestern Asia grew into the first towns.



BIG IDEA: NEW DISCOVERIES, NEW IDEAS

Scientists today use advanced technology[1], such as computer imaging, to expand[2] our knowledge of prehistoric humans.

1. technology	*n.*	技术
2. expand	*v.*	扩展

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What sets humans apart from other animals? One important difference is that humans depend for their survival[1] on their ability to make and use tools.

A tool is an object used to do work or perform a task. Making and using stone tools was the first technology that helped give our human ancestors some control over their world.

The earliest humans made stone tools from volcanic rock[2] that varied[3] from coarse[4] to fine-grained[5]. Later, humans learned to choose fine-grained rocks, such as flint[6], that take a very sharp edge. Archaeologists are scientists who study the remains of peoples and cultures of the past. By studying ancient stone tools and trying to make some themselves, archaeologists have learned a lot about the process of "flint knapping[7]."

1. survival	*n.*	活下来；生存
2. volcanic rock		火山岩
3. vary	*v.*	改变；变化
4. coarse	*adj.*	粗糙的
5. fine-grained	*adj.*	纹理细密的
6. flint	*n.*	燧石；火石
7. knap	*v.*	敲碎

Modern flint knappers created these reproductions[1] of Stone Age spear points found in North America.

1. reproduction *n.* 复制品

Knapping means chipping[1] stone. A flint knapper strikes[2] one rock, called a "hammerstone," against another stone, called a "core[3]." Flakes[4] of stone are chipped off the core, leaving a sharp edge. These flake tools are known as "choppers[5]." Choppers could cut through tough animal hide[6] and muscle, making humans more efficient hunters.

Gradually, humans improved their toolmaking skills. They made sharper edges by prying[7] off tiny pieces of flint with a pointed antler[8] or bone. They also created new kinds of tools. One basic type was the hand ax. This was an almond-shaped[9] tool that was flaked on both sides and narrowed to a point at one end.

Another basic type was the cleaver[10], a tool with a sharp edge that was broader than a hand ax. Both hand axes and cleavers were used to cut up meat and shape wood.

The next major stage in toolmaking was during the last Ice Age, when humans began to hunt big game. Toward the end of this period, the first spear points appeared. The spear point was like a small hand ax. It was attached to a wooden shaft[11] making a weapon that a hunter could use to thrust[12] or throw. Another typical tool from this period was the scraper[13], a stone that was given an edge along one or both sides. Scrapers were used to prepare animal hides and carve wood.

1. chip	*v.*	凿（碰）下（碎片）
2. strike	*v.*	击；碰撞
3. core	*n.*	石核
4. flake	*n.*	薄片
5. chopper	*n.*	砍刀
6. hide	*n.*	兽皮
7. pry	*v.*	撬掉
8. antler	*n.*	鹿角
9. almond-shaped	*adj.*	杏仁状的
10. cleaver	*n.*	宽刃石器
11. shaft	*n.*	柄；杆
12. thrust	*v.*	戳；刺
13. scraper	*n.*	刮刀

The Art of Flint Knapping

Making stone tools is not easy. "You need a lot of brains for flint knapping," says French archaeologist Jacques Pelegrin. "It would be like playing chess for us. You have to learn to plan and organize how you are going to flake off each piece from the core rock ahead of time. Rocks are never standard."

Flint knapper at work

1. horn	*n.*	（动物的）角
2. atlatl	*n.*	梭标投射器
3. socket	*n.*	插口
4. in effect		实际上
5. hurl	*v.*	猛投；猛掷
6. material	*n.*	材料
7. adapt	*v.*	改造
8. smash	*v.*	猛力击（砸）
9. hip bone		髋骨
10. extract	*v.*	提取
11. marrow	*n.*	骨髓
12. hollow	*n.*	骨腔

A researcher uses a stone chopper to smash[8] the hip bone[9] of an Ice Age elephant. Stone Age humans did this to extract[10] tasty marrow[11], a soft, fatty material that fills the hollows[12] in bones.

The last stage of Stone Age toolmaking began about 40,000 years ago. From wood, bone, antler, and horn[1], early humans made new kinds of tools, such as the atlatl[2], or spear-thrower. An atlatl had a socket[3] at one end to hold a spear. This spear-thrower, in effect[4], lengthened a hunter's arm, enabling him to hurl[5] weapons much farther and with much greater force. A hunter using an atlatl was more likely to kill the animal he was hunting. And because he could stay farther away from the animal, he was less likely to be hurt himself.

▶ *For more information about Stone Age tools, see pages 58–59.*

WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

The ability to make and use tools is one of the most basic characteristics of what it means to be human. During the Stone Age, early humans became very skilled in making tools from stone and other materials[6]. People today continue to use and adapt[7] tools, such as axes and needles, first developed by Stone Age humans.

Computer reconstruction of a Neandertal man and child

"They were not big, dumb[1] brutes[2] by any stretch of the imagination[3]. They were us—only different."

—FRED SMITH

Who Were the Neandertals?

尼安德特人

The earliest Ice Age humans were the Neandertals, who disappeared about 30,000 years ago. In the past, people viewed Neandertals as apelike[4] "cave men[5]." Most scientists today disagree.

Fred Smith is a scientist who specializes in Neandertals. His comment about "big, dumb brutes" refers to the way people long viewed these early humans. This view has changed.

Workers cutting limestone[6] in the Neander Valley[7] in Germany found the first Neandertal bones in 1856. (Neandertal means "Neander Valley.") At first, they thought the massive[8] bones were those of a cave bear. However, the remains turned out to be the skeleton[9] of a short, heavily built[10] man. Looking at the thick brow ridges[11] of the skull[12], many scientists believed for a long time that Neandertal people were apelike, not human.

1. dumb	*adj.*	哑的
2. brute	*n.*	野兽
3. by any stretch of the imagination		无论怎样想象
4. apelike	*adj.*	似猿人的
5. cave man	*v.*	穴居野人
6. limestone	*n.*	石灰岩
7. Neander Valley		尼安德山谷
8. massive	*adj.*	庞大的
9. skeleton	*n.*	骨架；骨骼
10. built	*adj.*	有……体形的
11. brow ridge		眉脊
12. skull	*n.*	头骨

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