

☆ Chapter 1 ☆

THE FIRST  
HUMANS  
AND THE  
PALEOLITHIC  
ERA

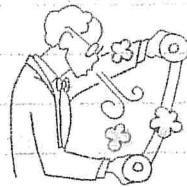
STARTING ROUGHLY  
6 TO 7 MILLION  
YEARS AGO

# Unit 1

## The First Humans Prehistory- 3500 BCE

What was life like 10,000 or a 100,000 years ago? How have people and cities changed over time? These are some of the questions history tries to answer.

**HISTORIANS** are the scholars who study our past, using written records and historic art to find the answers. They read letters, look at written laws, and study religious documents and community records.



What if there are **NO** written records of a culture? How can we study **PREHISTORY**, the time before writing was invented?

**PREHISTORY**  
history before  
written records

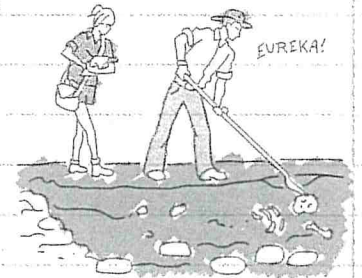
1

The study of prehistory relies on **ARCHEOLOGY** and two groups of people:

**ARCHEOLOGY**  
the study of human history and prehistory through things people made, used, and left behind

OFTEN FOUND BY DIGGING AROUND IN ANCIENT SITES

**Archaeologists** are scientists who study objects made by humans, called **ARTIFACTS**, to better understand human activity. Artifacts can be tools, instruments, or anything made by humans in past civilizations.



**Anthropologists** are scientists who also study artifacts but are more interested in the cultural aspects of human society:

- what people in a particular culture wore
- what they ate
- how they learned and created the customs they followed
- how they developed languages



All the things happening now—the presidents of today, the global issues, climate change, cultural change, the sort of lives **WE** lead—will be considered part of history someday. Maybe someone will study our "artifacts" and culture. But before that happens, let's go back to the beginning—to the very first humans.

THAT SHOE YOU LOST UNDER YOUR BED—IF FOUND THOUSANDS OF YEARS FROM NOW BURIED IN WHAT USED TO BE YOUR BEDROOM, THAT WOULD BE AN ARTIFACT, TOO.

2

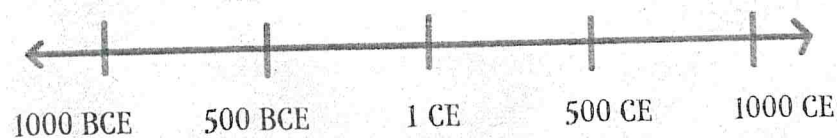
# WHERE FIRST HUMANS LIVED



- HOMO HABILIS
- HOMO ERECTUS
- HOMO SAPIENS
- HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS

**BCE** = BEFORE the COMMON ERA  
(or before the year was 1)

**CE** = the COMMON ERA  
(or the year 1 and after)



BCE dates sorta work like negative numbers.  
For example, 1000 BCE is further in the past than 500 BCE.