

Lesson

1

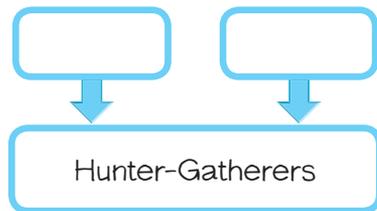
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Geography** Early humans adapted to the natural environment.
- 2 Culture** Humans created tools to ensure survival and to improve life.
- 3 Culture** Early humans developed language, religion, and art.

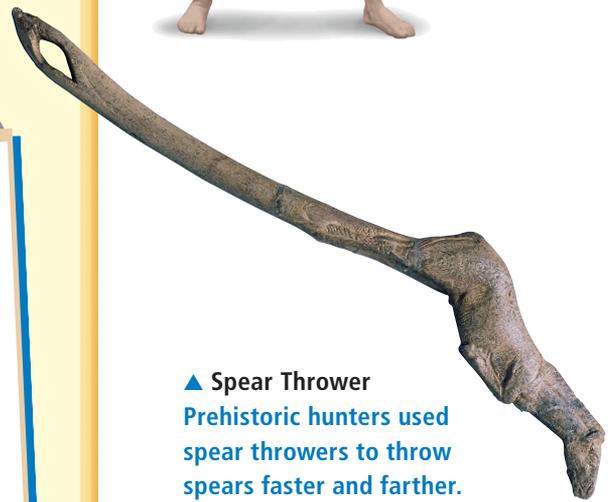
TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing

To summarize is to condense information into fewer words. Identify the main ideas and important details in this lesson. Then put them into your own words and record them in a graphic organizer like the one below.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3



▲ **Spear Thrower**
Prehistoric hunters used spear throwers to throw spears faster and farther. These devices greatly improved their ability to hunt animals.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

Framework These studies also should focus on early peoples' attempts to explain the universe through cave art.

6.1.1 Describe the hunter-gatherer societies, including the development of tools and the use of fire.

6.1.2 Identify the locations of human communities that populated the major regions of the world and describe how humans adapted to a variety of environments.

CST 3 Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.

Hunters and Gatherers

TERMS & NAMES

hunter-gatherer
nomad
migration
technology
religion

Build on What You Know Have you ever gone camping? How would you survive if you got lost in the woods? Where would you find food and water? In this chapter, you will learn how early humans got food to eat, how they lived, and what tools they used.

Early Humans' Way of Life

- 1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION** How did early humans interact with the environment?

Like early humans, you interact with the natural environment every day, often without thinking about it. You interact with the weather by wearing boots in the snow or sunglasses in the sunshine. Even your food is a product of the environment.

Hunter-Gatherers Adapt to Environments Early humans were **hunter-gatherers**. They hunted animals and gathered plants for food. When hunter-gatherers no longer had enough to eat, they moved to another location.

Early humans also depended on the natural environment for shelter. Some groups lived in caves and rock shelters. People who lived on plains or in desert areas may have made shelters out of branches, plant fibers, or animal skins.

African Savannah
This photograph shows the kind of landscape over which the first hunter-gatherers roamed. Savannahs cover 40 percent of the African continent. ▼



Small Bands Hunter-gatherers lived together in small bands, each made up of several families. The size of a group—probably around 30 people—reflected the number of people who could live off the plants and animals in a given region. Men hunted and fished. Women gathered foods, such as berries and nuts from plants that grew wild. They cared for the children, who also worked.

Early Humans on the Move Hunter-gatherers were **nomads**, people who move from place to place. Movement often was limited. Groups returned to the same places with the changes of seasons. At certain times of the year, these early bands joined together, forming larger communities. There was probably time for storytelling, meeting friends, and finding marriage partners.

Early humans also moved to new and distant lands. The act of moving from one place to settle in another is called **migration**. Migrations may have been the result of people's following animals to hunt. By around 15,000 B.C., hunter-gatherers had migrated throughout much of the world. They even traveled across a land bridge connecting Siberia and Alaska. In this way, they entered the Americas.

Distribution of Hunter-Gatherers, 15,000 B.C.–A.D. 2000

INTERACTIVE

15,000 B.C.



A.D. 1500



Hunter-gatherer peoples

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement What has happened to the distribution of hunter-gatherers between 15,000 B.C. and the present?

A.D. 2000



The arrival of a migrating group in the territory of another people could lead to both good and bad outcomes. Everyone benefited when knowledge and tools were shared. However, people sometimes turned violent when they felt threatened by newcomers. They feared that the newcomers might try to take their territory. Sometimes they may have feared them just because they were different.

REVIEW Why did hunter-gatherers move often?

The Development of Tools

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What were some tools created by early humans?

Imagine that you are planning a camping trip. Think about what tools you will take to make sure your trip is safe and enjoyable. Like you, early humans relied on tools.

The Use of Fire Around 500,000 years ago, early humans learned to make and control fire. Fire provided heat and light, and it enabled people to cook food. A good fire offered protection from animals. Early humans also used fire to temper, or harden, tools made of metal.

The Development of Technology **Technology** consists of all of the ways in which people apply knowledge, tools, and inventions to meet their needs. Technology dates back to early humans. At least 2 million years ago, people made stone tools for cutting. Early humans also made carrying bags, stone hand axes, awls (tools for piercing holes in leather or wood), and drills.

In time, humans developed more complex tools, such as hunting bows made of wood. They learned to make flint spearheads and metal tools. Early humans used tools to hunt and butcher animals and to construct simple forms of shelter. Technology—these new tools—gave humans more control over their environment. These tools also set the stage for a more settled way of life.

REVIEW How did early humans use fire?



▲ **Early Tools** Among the tools used by early humans were the mattock (a digging tool), the harpoon, and the ax.

Vocabulary Strategy

You can figure out what *technology* means from its **root** and **suffix**. The Greek root *techn* means "craft" or "skill." The suffix *-logy* means "study of." *Technology* means "the study and application of crafts or skills."

Early Human Culture

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What kind of culture did early humans create?

What sets humans apart from other creatures? Art, language, and religion are special to humans and help create their culture.

Language Human language probably developed as a result of the need for people to work together. One theory suggests that the need for cooperation during the hunt spurred language development. Hunters needed to be able to talk to one another in order to outsmart, trap, and kill animals for food. Another theory suggests that the cooperation needed to gather and share food led to the development of language.

Religion **Religion** is the worship of God, gods, or spirits. Early humans probably believed that everything in nature, including rocks, trees, and animals, had a spirit. Some archaeologists believe that early cave paintings of animals were made to honor the spirits of animals killed for food.

Comparisons Across Cultures

Prehistoric Cave Art

Prehistoric people in different parts of the world painted scenes on cave walls. Such rock paintings are among the oldest art in the world.

The cave art on the top was done by a Native American artist in Utah. The painting shows a holy man holding a snake. Snakes were seen as links between the human and underground worlds.

The painting at the bottom was done by an Australian Aboriginal artist. It shows a dreamtime spirit. Dreamtime is a supernatural past in which ancestor spirits shaped the natural world.

SKILLBUILDER

INTERPRETING VISUALS

Making Inferences What do these examples tell you about early human art? On the basis of their art, how important does religion seem to have been in the lives of prehistoric peoples?



Art Prehistoric art gives us insights into humans' daily life and shared beliefs. Early humans created art in caves and rock shelters. They also created art they could carry with them.

More than 200 sites of early cave art have been discovered in France and Spain. Cave paintings thousands of years old show lively images of bulls, stallions, and bison. Prehistoric art exists in Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and the Americas.

Jewelry and figurines are examples of portable art. Early humans may have worn these items. Other items may have had religious meaning. Art also included music, dance, and stories—art that could be performed anywhere.

Antler Headdress This red-deer antler headdress, which is about 9,500 years old, may have been used as a disguise in hunting or worn in hunting ceremonies. ▼

REVIEW What were the main elements of prehistoric culture?

Lesson Summary

- Hunter-gatherers were nomads.
- Fire and tools improved lives.
- Early humans created language, religion, and art.



Why It Matters Now . . .

Early humans created the first tools. Today technology continues to improve our lives and help us survive.

1 Lesson Review

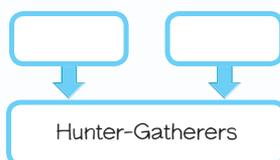
Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|----------|
| hunter-gatherer | migration | religion |
| nomad | technology | |

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed graphic organizer to answer the following question:

2. How did hunter-gatherers live? (6.1.1)



Main Ideas

3. How did prehistoric people use available natural resources for food, housing, and clothing? (6.1.1)
4. How did the development of tools change the life of early humans? (6.1.2)
5. Where are some of the places that prehistoric art has been found? (6.1.2)

Critical Thinking

6. **Comparing and Contrasting** How was cave art different from other kinds of art created by early humans? (6.1.2)
7. **Drawing Conclusions** What does their art tell us about early humans? (6.1.2)

Activity

Making a Map Use the map on pages A6-A7 of the Atlas to sketch a world outline map. You will add to this map in later units. Use the map on page 52 to mark the location of the hunter-gatherer group closest to where you live. (CST 3)