

PREHISTORIC MAN TIMELINE*

2.5 million years ago to 3,000 B.C.

Divided into three periods: Paleolithic (or Old Stone Age), Mesolithic (or Middle Stone Age), and Neolithic (or New Stone Age). This era is marked by the use of tools and the eventual transformation from a culture of hunting and gathering to farming and food production.

CLIMATE, FLORA and FAUNA - The end of this period marked the end of the last Ice Age, which resulted in the extinction of many large mammals and rising sea levels and climate change.

LANGUAGE, CULTURE and ART - Communal social system of sharing labor and resources. History passed with storytelling, cave paintings and small figurines carved from stones, clay, bones and antlers.

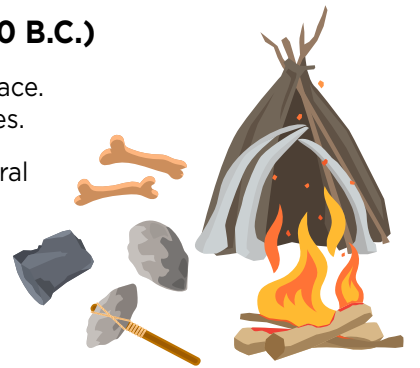


PALEOLITHIC PERIOD (2.5 MILLION YEARS AGO TO 10,000 B.C.)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION - Nomadic hunter gatherers. Moved from place to place. Lived in caves or simple huts or tepees depending on seasons and food sources.

DIET and NUTRITION - Foraging, hunting and fishing. Diet dependent on natural ecosystem fluctuations. Conserved and manipulated environments by moving often in order not to strip areas of resources.

TECHNOLOGY - Basic stone and bone tools, as well as crude stone axes, for hunting. They cooked their prey, including woolly mammoths, deer and bison, using controlled fire. They also fished and collected berries, fruit and nuts.



MESOLITHIC PERIOD (ABOUT 10,000 B.C. TO 8,000 B.C.)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION - Lived nomadically in camps near rivers and other bodies of water.

DIET and NUTRITION - Agriculture was introduced during this time, which led to more permanent settlements in villages.

TECHNOLOGY - Small stone tools, now also polished and sometimes crafted with points and attached to antlers, bone or wood to serve as spears and arrows.



NEOLITHIC PERIOD (ROUGHLY 8,000 B.C. TO 3,000 B.C.)

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION - Switched from hunter/gatherer mode to agriculture and food production.

DIET and NUTRITION - Domesticated animals and cultivated cereal grains.

TECHNOLOGY - Polished hand axes, adzes for ploughing and tilling the land and started to settlements in the plains. Advancements were made in tools, farming, home construction and art, including pottery, sewing and weaving.



*SOURCE: <https://www.history.com/news/prehistoric-ages-timeline>