Early Man through the Stone Age
Soooo... What do we know about the Past???

Turn and Talk with your Group about your conceptions of Early Humans.

Video (Show first four.)
The First Humans

- The first humans are known as hominids.
- No matter what you may have seen in the movies, early man did not live during the same period in history as dinosaurs!
- Dinosaurs died out about 65 million years ago. The first human like hominids did not appear until around 3 million years ago.
3 million years ago, the earth was full of life, including all kinds of plant, bird, and animal life (deer, giraffes, horses, lions, wooly mammoths, etc.).

It was during this time that the higher primates, including apes and early man, first appeared.

There was a difference between apes and man. Early human-like hominids could stand upright. Apes could not.

Their hands were different, too. Ape hands were made for climbing and clinging. Man’s hands were jointed differently, which allowed them to make and use tools.
How do we know??

- Lucy!!!
- In 1974, the oldest known skeleton was found in Africa.
- The bones were those of a female, about 20 years old or so when she died.
- Scientists named her *Lucy* (after a Beatles song).
- Tests showed that she lived more than 3 million years ago.
- Anthropologists could also tell from her bones that she was small (only about 4 feet tall and 50 pounds!!) and had walked on two legs…a key step in human development.
Very Early Humans

How do scientists know about an early man who lived 3 million years ago?

The discovery of “Lucy” may answer some of their questions.

But who in the world is “Lucy”? 
In 1974, a partial skeleton was found in Africa. The bones were those of a female, about 20 years old or so when she died. Scientists named her Lucy.

About 3 million years ago, when Lucy was alive, she was about 4 feet tall and weighed about 50 pounds. Scientists suspect that she fell into a lake or river and drowned.

In August, 2016, another possible explanation for Lucy's death was given. (See Full Article, if interested) Scientists are like detectives. They can tell a great deal from a skeleton, whether it's one year old or 3 million years old!
The Old Stone Age

• The first humans were Hunters and Gatherers, meaning they did not plant crops – they simply found the plants they needed, and hunted the food they wanted.

• Were Nomadic: Wandered from place to place in search of food and shelter. Once the food they wanted ran out, they would move!

• Invented the first tools and weapons including simple stone tools.

• Lived in clans of about 20-30 people, used caves for shelter.

• Learned to make and control fire to keep warm and cook their food.

• Developed oral, or spoken language

• Made cave art and statues.
The Middle Stone Age

- Domesticated plants and animals (this means they figured out how plants grow. They weren’t good at it, but they were learning!)
- Settled in communities
- Tools became smaller
- Pottery and the use of the bow developed
The New Stone Age

- Also called the Agricultural Revolution - Agriculture means farming, and revolution means a big change… The big change was that they got really good at growing plants and didn’t have to worry where their food was coming from anymore.

- Developed Agriculture and weaving (better clothing)

- Domesticated Animals

- Used Advanced Stone Tools

- Made Pottery (for food storage)
Neanderthals

- Named after the valley their fossils were found in, which is in modern-day Germany
- While the Neanderthals died out, they were the first in a very intelligent line of humans, called Cro-Magnon. These people did NOT struggle daily because they worked TOGETHER to provide food and shelter for the community.
- These people did a lot of things that showed how intelligent they were!
  - Cured and stored food
  - Used traps for hunting
  - Built rafts and canoes, and nets for fishing
  - Made clothing and jewelry
  - Used the first bow and arrow
  - And created the first cave paintings (the first ones being discovered in France during WWII)
Neanderthals

One day, scientists found a new skeleton. This skeleton was from another group of early men. Scientists named this man Neanderthal man, after the valley in which the skeleton had been found.

Scientists announced that these early men were dim-witted brutes, who walked with bent knees, with their heads slung forward on their big necks. Could these early people really be our ancestors?
Neanderthals

But scientists had made a mistake!

The bones were bent because they were part of the skeleton of an old man suffering from arthritis! Arthritis is a disease that bends and cripples bones.
Still, Neanderthals were different from other species of early humans. They were tall and smart, and used caves as their homes. They were great hunters. Considering how smart they were, and how advanced for their time, scientists are puzzled that the Neanderthals were one of the early species of man to die out. Many species of man died out in these early days. But why the Neanderthals? It is a history mystery.
Another group of early men stood out during this period. Scientists nicknamed this group “Cro-Magnon man”. Cro-Magnon man lived in Europe.

This group did not live a life of constant struggle for survival because they worked together to provide food for their tribe.
Neanderthals

These Stone Age people learned to cure and store food for the long winter. They used traps, which allowed them to catch food while they were busy doing something else. Fisherman used nets woven from vines and fishhooks.

Some groups built rafts and canoes to catch bigger fish in deeper waters.

They made clothing and jewelry. They invented the bow and arrow. Neanderthals are the closest relation to modern humans.
The importance of fire

- With the increase in intelligence, man began to cook food, which reduced disease.
- People collected around the fire in their community to share oral histories, and to foster a sense of community.
- Their lives improved with the use of better tools such as axes, knives, spears, as well as the bow and arrow.
- Because man could make fire, he was free to search for food and didn’t have to worry about not having heat.
Modern Human Beings

- Appeared in Africa between 150,000-200,000 years ago.
- Began to migrate outside of Africa 100,000 years ago.
- Replaced the Neanderthals by 30,000 B.C..
- By 10,000 B.C. humans could be found throughout the world due to migration.

During the last ice age between 100,000 B.C. and 8000 B.C. the water level in the oceans dropped revealing a land bridge connecting Asia and North America.
Migration

● What are some reasons people back then would have migrated (or moved)?

● These can also be called *push* and *pull* factors

● Can you think of some reasons that would have ‘FORCED’ them to move?

● Can you think of some reasons they would have ‘VOLUNTARILY’ moved?
Possible reasons early humans moved...

**Forced (PUSH Factor):**
- Flood
- Natural disaster
- Disease
- Lack of food/resources
- Wars or conquest
- Dangerous conditions or animals
- Drought or famine
- Overcrowded

**Voluntary (PULL Factor):**
- Better climate
- Proximity to resources
- Amount of resources
- Space
- Protection
- Better opportunities
- Curiosity/Adventure
- Discovering more land
Adaptation

- As man moved, they adapted to different ways of life based on where they were, what (and who) they were around

- This includes the discovery and use of fire, a variety of tools (for hunting, building, and working), different ways to plant crops and hunt, different kinds of shelters, language, art, and religions.
Review Questions

- What is a hunter-gatherer?
- Someone who gathers food growing wild, and hunts for food.
What is a Stone Age?

A time in history when man was making large improvements in how they lived, ate, and worked. Named mainly for the use of tools made from stone.
Why was the ability to make fire so important?

- Fire helped people survive. It served as a source of heat, a source to cook food which reduced disease, and allowed people to move freely in search of food and shelter knowing they could create a heat source when needed.
● How could early humans travel from places like Africa to Australia without a boat?
● During the last Ice Age, most major landforms were connected through iced-over land bridges that allowed for large migrations
- What are some ways man has adapted to his new environment?
- The use of fire, hunting and gathering, stone tools, different kinds of shelters, religion, language, and art.
Vocab Box Example

Nomadic

They move from place to place for some food.

Cave men were nomads and moved often.
Vocab Box Definitions

- **Nomadic** - moved from place to place in search of food
- **Hunters/Gatherers** - Did not know how to make their own food. Only knew how to hunt/gather animals and plants that were there
- **Hominid** - humans and their ancestors that walk upright on two feet
- **Technology** - anything that makes life easier (can be as advanced as a computer or as simple as a knife)
- **Migration** - when people move to another place. Can be forced (made to move) or voluntary (choose to move)
- **Adaptation** - when people or animals must change or adjust to their environment *ex. Learning to make fire*
- **Domestication** - to make plants or animals more useful to humans, “taming” them.
- **Agriculture** - farming