

# PREHISTORY

**TASK 1:** *How do you understand the term Prehistory? What does the prefix pre- mean?  
When does history start then?*

## THE ORIGINS OF LIFE AND HUMANKIND

**There are three theories explaining the origins of life and humankind**

1. **C** \_\_\_\_\_ – life, human beings were \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_
2. **E** \_\_\_\_\_ – life, human beings developed through \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_
3. **E** \_\_\_\_\_ **T** \_\_\_\_\_ – life brought from \_\_\_\_\_ or developed as a result of an experiment by \_\_\_\_\_ the Earth

**TASK 2: Group Work – Three Groups**

*What evidence supporting the three theories do we have? Try to think of as much evidence as you can.*

Creationism	Evolution	Extra terrestrialism

*Which of the theories do you support? Why?*

## Prehistoric Man

**TASK 3:** *What are the distinctive features of the human race? What makes us different to other animals?*

### The Origins of Humankind

- The Earth is approximately 5,000 million years old.
- The first distant **human ancestors** appeared 5 million years ago
- The first members of the **Homo Genus** appeared 3 million years ago
- **Modern Man** 10,000 years ago

### Our Possible Ancestors

**TASK 4:** *Study the chart below and mark in the map where our ancestors lived in different colours.*



Name:	When:	Where:	Skills/Tools:	Diet:
<b>Australopithecus</b>	3.6-1.5 mil ago	Africa (Ethiopia, Tanzania, South Africa)	Uses wood, stones but not manufactured  Lives partly in trees	<b>Gatherer</b> , plus eats meat of animals killed by predators
<b>Homo Habilis</b> <b>Handy Man</b>	2.5 – 1.5 mil ago	Africa ( <b>Olduvai Gorge</b> Tanzania, Kenia)	<b>First primitive stone tools</b> ( <b>Oldowan Industry – the first</b> <b>culture</b> )  <b>Builds first simple shelters</b>  <b>Uses sounds to communicate</b>	<b>The First Hunter-</b> <b>gatherer</b>  Hunts small animals, gathers fruit, seeds
<b>Homo Erectus</b> <b>Upright Man</b>	1,6mil-200,000 ago	Africa, Asia, Europe, Indonesia, China  ČR – <b>Přezletice</b>	Better tools, stone, bone, wood  <b>Hand axes</b>  Builds huts, shelters  <b>Uses fire</b> for cooking, heat, as a weapon but can't light it  Cooperates in groups, communicates using sounds	Hunter-gatherer  Hunts big animals, gathers fruit, seeds
<b>Homo Sapiens</b> <b>Neanderthalensis</b> <b>Neanderthal Man</b>	250,000-30,000 ago	Europe, Asia  ČR – caves <b>Kůlna, Šipka</b>	Uses refined stone tools, uses tools to produce tools  <b>Can Light Fire</b>  Lives in caves, builds tents, huts  Wears <b>clothes</b> (animal skin)  Primitive <b>religious concepts</b>  Burial rites and <b>rituals</b>  <b>Uses primitive speech</b>	Hunter-gatherer  Hunts big animals
<b>Homo Sapiens</b> <b>Modern man</b> <b>Homo Sapiens</b> <b>Sapiens</b>	300,000-40,000 ago  160,000-10,000 ago	All continents  America the last 50-40,000 ago  ČR – <b>Dolní</b> <b>Věstonice,</b> <b>Předmostí u</b> <b>Přerova</b>	Best stone tools  <b>Speech</b>  <b>Art</b> cave paintings, statues, bone carving, jewellery  Bows and arrows, spear thrower  Religion  Organized groups	Last Hunter-gatherer  Hunts big animals, mammoths, hairy rhinos...

## Periods of the Prehistoric Era and the Neolithic Revolution

Christian Thomsen suggested the division into periods according to the materials used to produce tools.

### **Stone Age - Bronze Age - Iron Age**

The Stone Age lasted for about three million years. Therefore, it is necessary to subdivide it further.

### **Stone Age** (about 3 mil. years ago – 10,000 or 2,000 BC (according to area))

#### **Old Stone Age** (Paleolithic Period)

- Early Paleolithic Period (3 mil – 600,000 years ago)  
Australopithecus, Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus
- Old Paleolithic Period (600,000 – 300,000 years ago)  
Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus
- Middle Paleolithic Period (300,000 – 40,000 years ago)  
Neanderthal man
- New Paleolithic Period (40,000 – 10,000 years ago)  
Homo Sapiens Sapiens
- Late Paleolithic Period – in areas with slower development

#### **Middle Stone Age, Mesolithic Period** (10,000 – 8,000/4,500 BC)

only in areas where farming came later, otherwise a direct link to New Stone Age

Change of Climate, the end of Ice Age, new fauna, flora, need of change of lifestyle

#### **New Stone Age, Neolithic Period** (10,000 – 3,000 BC)

agriculture, domestication of animals, permanent settlements, villages, small towns, pottery

**Late Stone Age, Eneolithic Period** – in areas with slower development, otherwise Bronze Age starts

### **Bronze Age** (3,000 – 1,500 BC)

Use of Bronze, Social Stratification

We divide the Bronze Age into old, middle, new and late periods.

### **Iron Age** (1,500 BC - ?)

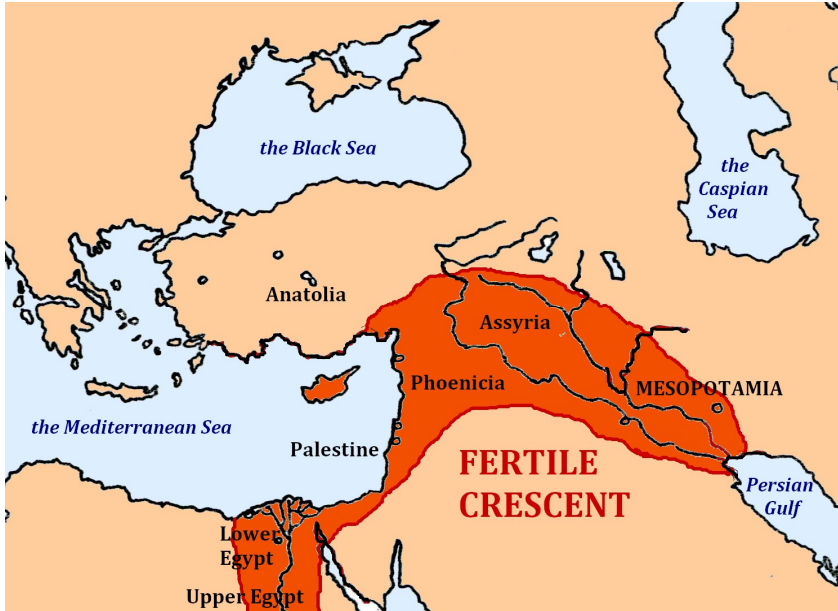
Iron tools, weapons, **first nations**

Old Iron Age - **Halstadt Culture**

New Iron Age - **Latene Culture**

## Neolithic Revolution

= introduction of farming and permanent settlements



It began in the area of the **Fertile Crescent** (fertile land, wild crops and animals suitable for growing, domestication)

About 10,000 years ago the climate changed. The last Ice Age ended. With this change it was necessary to change the lifestyle. The big animals hunted by Homo Sapiens Sapiens migrated to the north. Due to the new climatic conditions it was possible to start farming in the warmer areas.

**TASK 5:** *What was the effect of farming on the development of human society?*

The following events are not in the logical sequence. Decide on the **possible** right order of the following events and changes caused by the Neolithic revolution. Some of the events might have occurred simultaneously.

- a. First fields, domestication of animals
- b. New areas colonized
- c. first conflicts, wars, defences, city walls
- d. Farming and keeping animals brought more food than hunting (though hunting remained an important part of life)
- e. Possibility of exchanging products – trade
- f. First pottery
- g. Permanent settlements by fields
- h. Population growth
- i. Specialized tools for farming
- j. Villages self-sufficient, improved living standard
- k. The first villages, cities
- l. nomadic tribes attracted by better living standards

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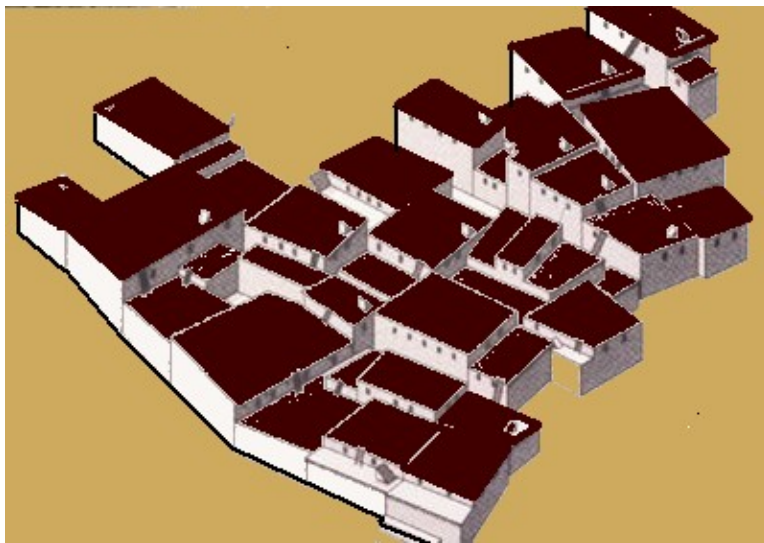
## The First Cities

### Jericho

c. 8,000 BC, the largest permanent settlement, 3h, stone city walls (8 metres high ) protecting the city, inside round mud huts

### Chatal Hüyük

c. 6,500 BC, farming, permanent settlement, round 5,000 inhabitants, rectangular houses (average area 25 square metres) clustered together, entrance through the roof, bare walls served as city walls,

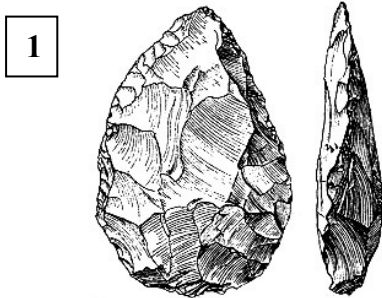


### TASK 6: Match the two columns.

- |                         |                                      |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Australopithecus     | a. first stone tools                 |
| 2. Homo Habilis         | b. able to light fire                |
| 3. Homo Erectus         | c. cave paintings                    |
| 4. Neanderthal Man      | d. hand axe                          |
| 5. Homo Sapiens Sapiens | e. introduction of effective farming |
| 6. Jericho              | f. lived partly in trees             |
| 7. Neolithic Revolution | g. one of the first cities           |

**TASK 7:** Identify the things in the pictures and match them with the appropriate period:

	picture	description
Old Paleolithic Period		
Middle Paleolithic Period		
New Paleolithic Period		
Neolithic Period		
Bronze Age		
Iron Age, Latene Period		



Oldowan Industry	Skull of a Neanderthal man	Hand Axe	Altamira cave painting
Venus of Věstonice	Pottery of Únětice	Long House	Celtic decorative jug handle