

Human History

While everyone's busy getting ready for the hunt, my grandad's been giving me a quick history lesson. Grandad's great, but I hope it's not going to take too long. I've got some fishing hooks I want to finish. Grandad says we belong to a group of human beings called **Homo sapiens**, who originally came from Africa. Wonder if it's warmer there?



2.5m - 300,000 years ago
Lower Paleolithic

Early humans make the first simple tools, such as hand axes, out of stone. The oldest known stone tools are found in Africa.



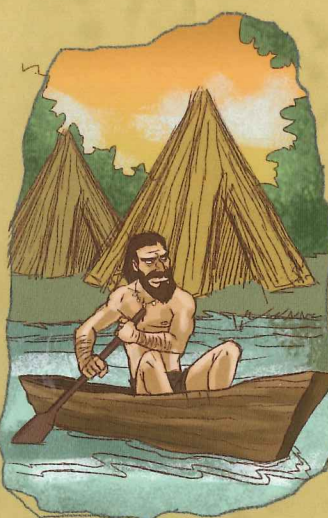
300,000 - 40,000 years ago
Middle Paleolithic

Homo sapiens begin to move out of Africa and spread to other parts of the world. They start wearing simple clothes for warmth.



40,000 - 10,000 years ago
Upper Paleolithic

People start stitching clothes and painting caves. Some settle in permanent shelters and huts.



10,000 years ago - 5,000 BCE
Mesolithic

The ice covering Europe begins to melt, bringing warmer weather. People begin to **domesticate** sheep, cattle, and dogs.



5,000 BCE - 2,500 BCE
Neolithic

People slowly begin to settle in one place and farm crops and animals for food. Writing is invented in Mesopotamia, marking the start of recorded history.



2,500 BCE - 800 BCE
Bronze Age

For the first time ever, people begin to make tools, weapons, and jewelry from metals, such as copper and bronze.

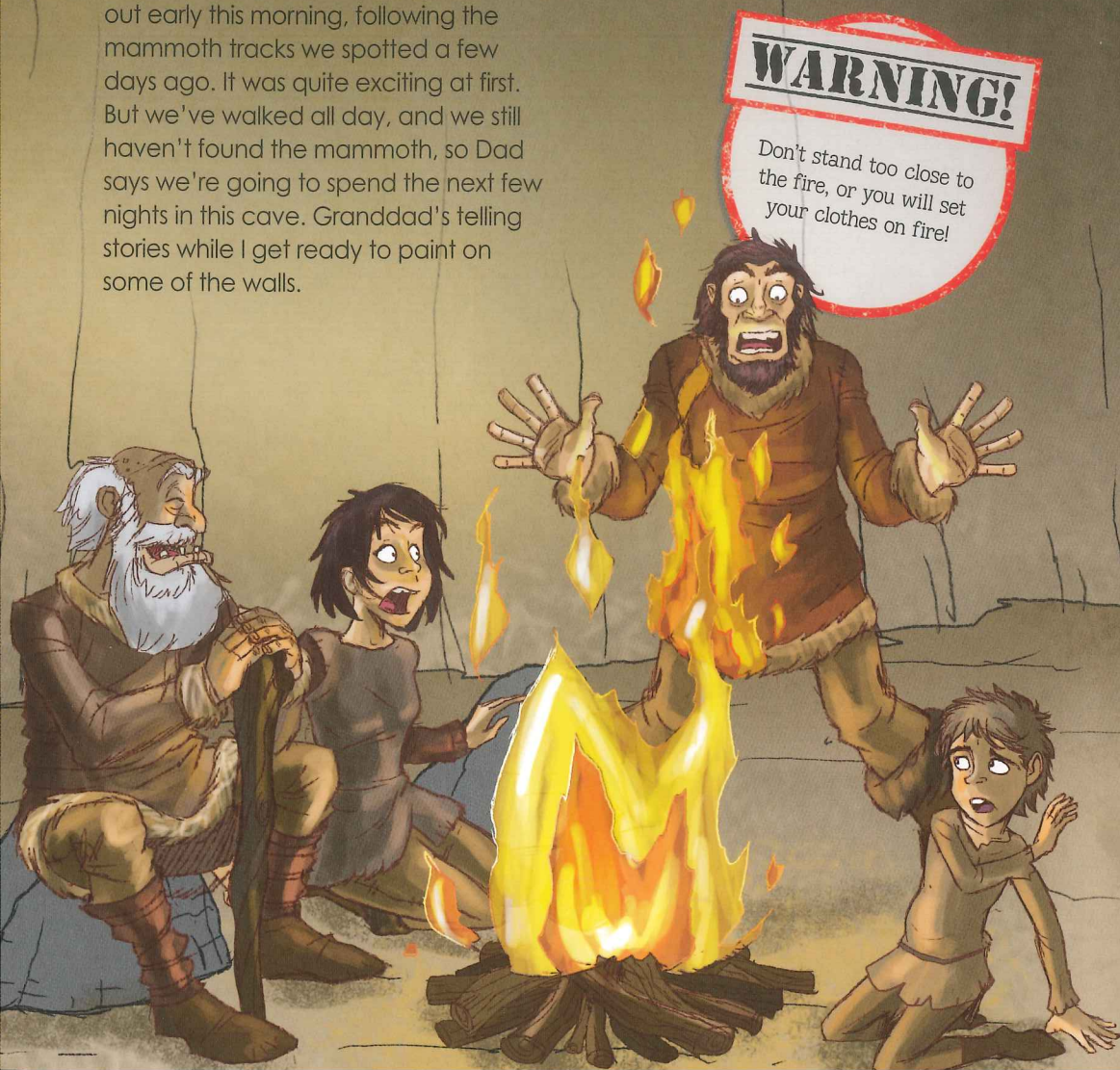


Neanderthals

Another group of early humans were called Neanderthals. They got their name from the place in Germany where lots of their fossils were found. Neanderthals were quite short and stocky, which helped them to cope with the cold. They first appeared around 400,000 years ago but died out around 30,000 years ago. No one really knows why.

Camping Trip

We packed up our old camp and set out early this morning, following the mammoth tracks we spotted a few days ago. It was quite exciting at first. But we've walked all day, and we still haven't found the mammoth, so Dad says we're going to spend the next few nights in this cave. Granddad's telling stories while I get ready to paint on some of the walls.



Make your cave comfortable by lighting a fire and making your bed out of soft, dried grass and a blanket of animal fur. You can also set up a windbreak made from wooden posts and animal skins, weighed down with large stones.

How to light a fire

A fire's vital for light, warmth, cooking, and scaring off wild animals. It's also a great place to sit and chat. But how do you go about lighting a fire?

- 1 Take a long stick and cut the end into a sharp point.
- 2 Carve a small hole in another, softer piece of wood.
- 3 Fit the stick in the hole, then twirl it quickly between the palms of your hands.
- 4 When the soft wood begins to smolder, put some dry **tinder** on top. Then blow gently to make a flame.

If you want to keep your cave safe, get a guard dog (tame wolf). In return for a share of reindeer or mammoth meat, it'll protect you from hungry hyenas and other predators.



Mammoth Shelter

While we were finding our way out of the cave, Gam told me a story he'd heard about some mammoth hunters who live in a land far away in the east. There's no stone to make tools from, and not much wood. But there are LOADS of mammoths, and the hunters build their huts from mammoth bones. How cool is that?

Dragging the bones to your site is a mammoth job in itself. You need around 25 mammoths to make one hut. One skull weighs around 220 pounds (10 kg); the bones in total weigh 22 tons (20 tonnes), including about 36 tusks.

How to build a mammoth-bone hut

Fed up with living in a cave? Want to build your own mammoth-bone hut? Here's how:

- 1** Drag the mammoth bones to your campsite.
- 2** Make a ring of jawbones, one on top of the other, to form a solid base.
- 3** Use the huge, curved tusks to make an arch to support the roof and porch.
- 4** Lash other bones to the tusks for strength.
- 5** Cover the whole frame with animal hides.

You've built your hut, and you've got one skull left over. What can you do with it? Why not put it on your porch to use as a drum? Decorate it with a flamelike pattern in red ocher. When you want to play it, use two long bones as drumsticks.

How to Trap a Mammoth

The day of the mammoth hunt's finally here! At last. I've been practicing hunting rabbits since I was five, but I've never been allowed to go after something this big before.

We followed the tracks, and there it was. I've never seen anything so huge. Dad says the best way to trap a mammoth is to run as fast as you can after it and chase it into the nearest swamp where it'll get stuck in the mud. That way, it won't be able to run away or attack us with its tusks. So that's what we're going to do...



How to catch large animals

If you can't find a swamp, try this technique instead. It works with all kinds of large animals, not just mammoths.

- 1** Pick your weapon carefully: a spear's best for this sort of thing.
- 2** Choose your animal: deer, bison, horse, camel, mammoth. They all taste great.
- 3** Find a high cliff and make a funnel shape with stones on top of it.
- 4** Herd the animal between the stones to guide it over the edge of the cliff.
- 5** Post one person at the bottom to check that the animal's dead (but make sure he doesn't get crushed).
- 6** Take away chunks of the animal and carry them back to camp.

Keep an eye out for wolves—they'll scare off an animal before you've lured it anywhere near the cliff. To put a wolf out of action, dig a deep pit. Put a dead animal in the bottom as bait. Line the bottom of the trap with sharp sticks, then cover the top with leaves and branches. After that, it's a waiting game.

WARNING!

Don't go too near the edge of the cliff yourself, unless you're not afraid of heights.



Battle of the clans

On the way back to camp, disaster struck. Hunters from another clan had been hiding, waiting to ambush us. They'd seen us kill the mammoth and wanted to steal some of our meat. They must have been watching us for a long time.

A fight broke out. It was chaos! Dad shouted to me to guard the mammoth while he and the others fought back. We seemed to be pushing them back, but then I noticed Dad's cousin, Urg, lying on the ground...

WARNING!

Always keep an eye out for rival clans. They can be sneaky—and their spears can be deadly.



How to throw a spear

Knowing how to use a spear-thrower is essential, because it can hurl a spear as far as 800 feet (240 m). Here's what you have to do:



1 Fit your spear into the groove at the back of the spear-thrower.



2 Hold the thrower in one hand, gripping the handle.



3 Swing your arm and throw...



4 ... The spear will fly out of the thrower.



Spear-throwers are carved from wood or reindeer antlers. Some are decorated with carvings of animals. Pick something impressive, like a mammoth, for yours.



Reindeer Rations

We did it! We got the mammoth, even though it put up a good fight. We chased it into the swamp, then finished it off with our spears. Now we're dragging it back to camp. On the way, Dad spotted some reindeer and we nabbed a couple of them, too. Dad said we might not get the chance to stock up on so much food for a while.

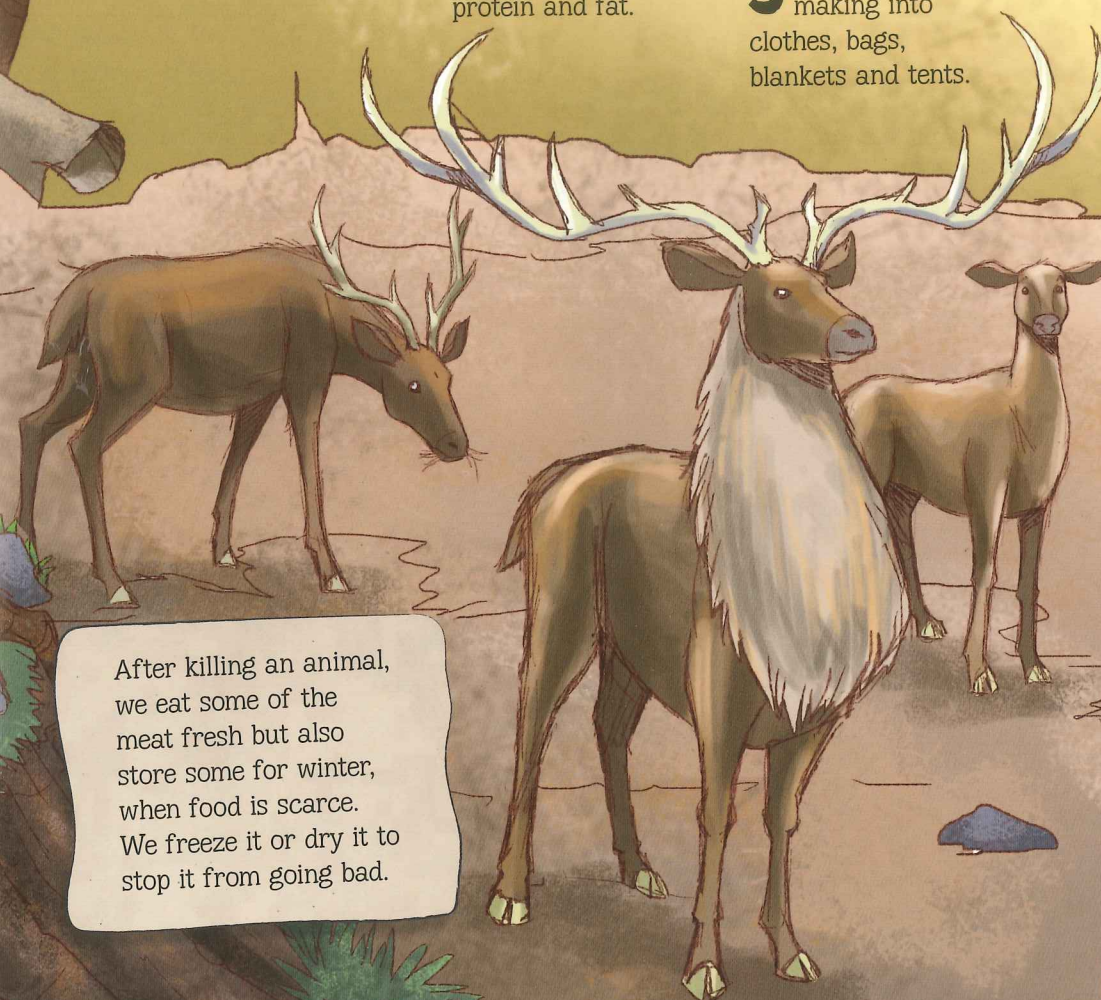
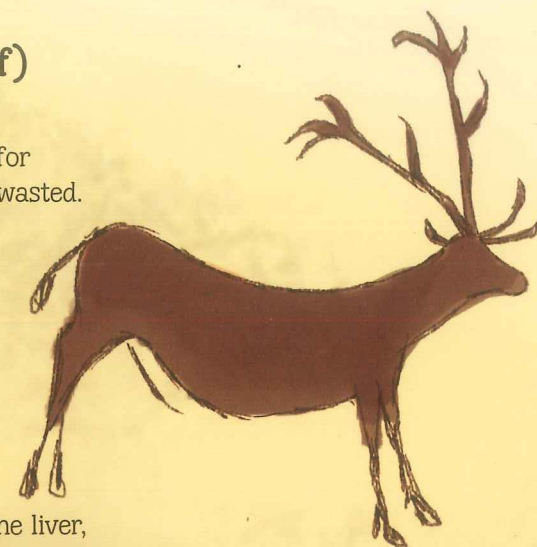


Mosquitoes can be real pests, especially if you're camping near a stream. To avoid being bitten to death, rub some reindeer fat on your skin. You might not smell very nice, but it should keep the irritating insects away.

How to use up (every bit of) a reindeer

Making the most of a reindeer catch, for food, tools and clothing - nothing got wasted.

- 1** Use antlers - for tools and weapons.
- 2** Eat the tongue, nose, eyeballs, and brain. They're rich in fat and protein!
- 3** Cracked open bones to get marrow, which is high in fat. Or boil the bones for fat and grease.
- 4** Eat the liver, kidneys, and heart. They're also rich in protein and fat.
- 5** Use skin for making into clothes, bags, blankets and tents.



After killing an animal, we eat some of the meat fresh but also store some for winter, when food is scarce. We freeze it or dry it to stop it from going bad.