

UNIT 5. PREHISTORY



PRIMARY 4/ Social Science
Pedro Antonio López Hernández

PERIODS OF HISTORY

© Pedro Antonio López Hernández

Historical sources

Historians use **objects, images, documents** and **eyewitness accounts** to help them understand the past.

In Prehistory writing hadn't been invented. So to understand it we only have material remains or objects.

Historical time

To help us understand historical time we have created ways to measure it: **YEARS (365 days), CENTURIES (100 years), or MILLENNIUMS (1.000 years).**

Historians study the past by ordering historical events in time. They have divided history into stages called **PERIODS** to make this order easier to understand.



1. PALAEOOLITHIC PERIOD

The first hominids appear
2.000.000 years ago

2. NEOLITHIC PERIOD

Development of agriculture and livestock
80.00 B.C.

3. THE METAL AGE

Objects are made of metal
5.000 B.C.

4. ANCIENT TIMES

The first writing appears.
3.500 B.C.

5. THE MIDDLE AGES

Fall of the Western Roma Empire
476 A.D.

6. THE MODERN AGE

Discovery of America.
1.492 A.D.

7. THE CONTEMPORARY TIMES

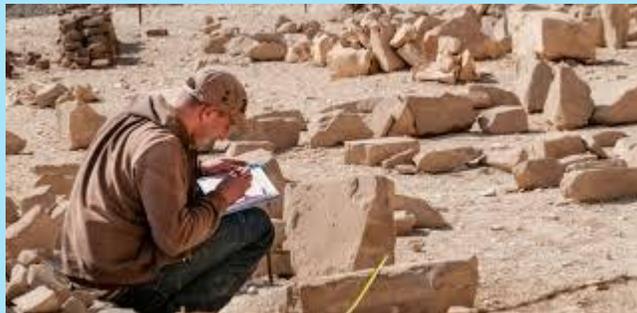
The French Revolution
1789 A.D.

THE WORK OF ARCHAEOLOGISTS

© Pedro Antonio López Hernández

1. They **look for a place** where historical objects may be buried.

They **dig up the area** and remove the objects or fragments of objects with great care.



2. These pieces are taken to a laboratory where they are **analysed and classified** according to what they are made of, what they were used for or when they date from.



3. Archaeologists and historians **study the data.**

The objects are exhibited in museums with **explanations** about they where they came from and what we can learn from them.



In our culture we begin to count centuries from the date of the birth of Jesus Christ. If events happened before the birth of Christ we write the letter B.C.
If the happened after the birth of Christ we write the letters A.D.

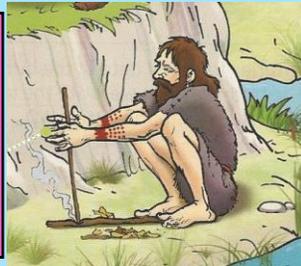
THE PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD

© Pedro Antonio López Hernández

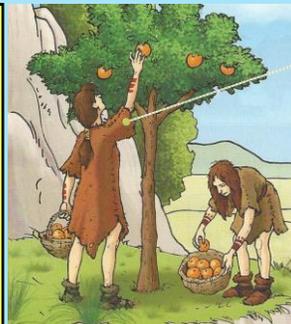
Discoveries and inventions

- This period began when the first hominids appeared in Africa.
- They ate vegetables **they gathered**, small and dead animals they found.

1. They made fire by banging stones together or twisting a stick in a hole in a tree trunk.

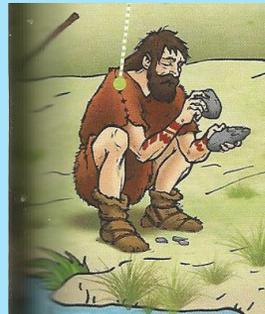


2. The first hominids learnt how to distinguish edible and non-edible **fruits** and **vegetables**.



3. The first tools were made by **carving stones**.

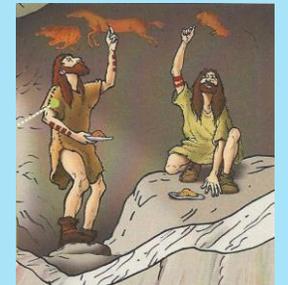
That meant banging one stone against another to give it the correct shape.



Lifestyle and culture

- The first hominids lived in **tribes** and they developed **language** and **social skills**.
- They **travelled from place to place**.
- They lived in caves where they left the first examples of art: **paintings and small sculptures**.

4. They made cave paintings using their hands to print, with brushes or blowing through a hollow reed



5. They separated animals' skins using carved stones and used the skins as **clothing**.



THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD

Discoveries and inventions

The Neolithic period began with the development of agriculture and livestock.

Agriculture began when people discovered seeds and livestock began when people learnt how to tame animals and kept them for their own use.

© Pedro Antonio López Hernández

Lifestyle and culture

Human being didn't need to move from one place to another because they could produce their own food.

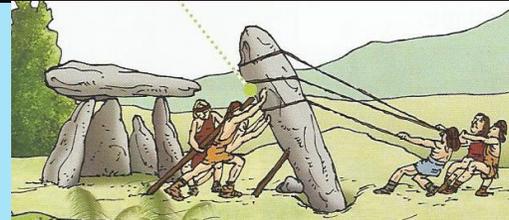
Due to this more **settled life** the first **villages** appeared and the first constructions: **houses and tombs.**

- **Polished stone:** This meant they could make more specialised tools like the sickle or the millstone.
- **Clay baking (Pottery):** This meant they could make pots and containers for cooking and keeping food.
- **Fabric-making techniques** to obtain and weave thread. They made woollen and linen fabrics.

7. They invented the **loom** for weaving wool and linen.



3. They built tombs with large stones called megaliths. Menhirs were standing stones and dolmens were made of two or more stones.



6. They invented the potter's wheel for moulding clay pots and the oven to bake them.



1. The first crops were cereals and pulses.



2. They obtained meat, milk, pelts and wool from animals.



4. They used mud, stone, sticks and straw to build houses.



5. They used the polished stone technique to invent tools like the hand mill to grind cereals.

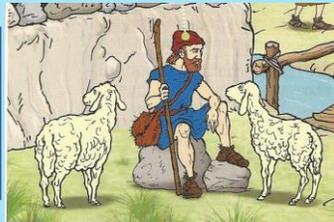


THE METAL AGE

© Pedro Antonio López Hernández

Discoveries and inventions

- The Metal Age began with the last great discovery of prehistory: **METAL**. Man discovered how to melt down metal and then mould and polish it. This was how **metallurgy** was developed.
- Human started to work with metals to make **jewellery**. Later, **tools and weapons** were made with harder metals.
- As well as metallurgy, other important developments were new forms of transport like **sailing boats and carts** with wheel.



1. **Cattle headers** kept cows and other animals and brought them to graze.

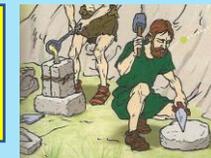
2. **Farmer** planted seeds and grew crops.



3. **Warriors** stood on the walls and protected the city



4. **Blacksmiths** made metal tools and weapons.



5. **Potters** made pots and other containers from clay



Lifestyle and culture

- As workers learnt new **skill**, **blacksmiths**, **potters**, **cattle herders** and **farmers** appeared.
- Each one made a different product and exchanged it. This trading without money is called **barter**.
- The areas where metal was plentiful got richer and tiny villages became **small town**.
- **Big walls** were built to protect the town and **warriors** were chosen. One man was chosen as the chief warrior.
- The power given to these warriors give rise to **social inequality**.