

4th GRADE MINIMUM CONTENTS-SOCIAL SCIENCE

UNIT 10: THE FIRST SETTLERS

► WHAT IS PREHISTORY?

Prehistory is the first period of history. It began about 2.5 million years ago when the first humans appeared.

It ended over 5000 years ago with the appearance of writing.

Prehistory is divided into the Stone Age (Palaeolithic and Neolithic Ages) and the Metal Age (Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages)

► THE PALAEOLITHIC AGE: A TIME OF HUNTERS.

Many thousands of years ago, the first human beings lived in small groups called **tribes**. They lived in caves or rock shelters and they moved to a new location when they had used up all the food in the area. Human beings were **nomads**. This means that they moved from place to place to look for food and shelter.

They hunted animals for food and their skins, and they caught fish and gathered plants and wild fruits.

They made **simple tools** using stone, wood and animal bones.

They discovered fire, a very important event in the history of mankind.

They made the first works of art by painting or engraving the walls of caves and rock shelters with pictures of animals. Many archaeological remains from the Palaeolithic Age, including **cave paintings**, have been discovered in the Iberian Peninsula (in the Cave of Altamira).

► THE NEOLITHIC AGE: A TIME OF FARMERS.

Much later, human beings learned to cultivate **crops**. The first crops they grew were **cereals** (wheat, barley,...) and **pulses** (lentils, peas...). Also, they

started to domesticate animals. The main animals they domesticated were dogs, goats, sheep, oxen, horses and pigs.

Because they had to look after their fields and animals, they became **sedentary**. This means they started to build permanent villages called **settlements**. They live in huts made of branches and animal skins, and they started to build stables for their animals and storehouses to keep their harvests in.

The first settlements were located on flat, fertile ground near a river, so that they had easy access to water.

They started to make **cloth** and they invented the **spindle** for spinning and the **loom** for weaving.

They also started to make **pottery** (pots are made out of **clay**) in order to cook and store food

► THE METAL AGE: A TIME OF METALWORKERS.

About 7000 years ago, our ancestors learnt to work metals. Settlements became larger and stone walls were built around them.

The first metal used was **copper**. This was followed by **bronze**, which is a mixture of copper and tin. Later **iron** was used. This is a harder, more resistant metal and it is more abundant in nature.

Metal was used to make agriculture implements (sickles, hoes...), weapons (swords, spears...) and jewellery (necklaces, bracelets...) Possessing metal objects was a sign of wealth.

As it was difficult to work metal, there were people who specialised in metalworking (metallurgy). These were called **artisans**.

The exchange of goods between farmers and artisans increased **trade**.

It was during this period that the **wheel** and the **sail** were invented. The wheel led to the invention of carts pulled by animals, and the sail led to the invention of ships, which improved **transport**.

Improved transport stimulated trade because this could take place at greater distances.

Improvements in agriculture and technical advances led to an increase in the population and in the size of the settlements.

Most of these settlements were located on hills and had a well around them. Huts acquired a rectangular shape and had more than one room.

There are many settlements on the Iberian Peninsula, which date back to the Metal Age.

Almería in Andalusia is home to two of these settlements, Los Millares and El Argar.

UNIT 10: THE FIRST SETTLERS

ACTIVITIES

1.-Read and complete with these words: Metal Ages- first- Stone Age- writing-Neolithic.

Prehistory is the period of history. It began when the first humans appeared and ended with the appearance of

Prehistory is divided into the(Palaeolithic and Ages) and the (Copper, Bronze and Iron Ages)

2.-Read these sentences about the Palaeolithic Age and write T(true) or F(false)

- a.-Palaeolithic people painted bison, horses and elephants with paintbrushes.
- b.-They live in a permanent place which was either a cave or a rock shelter.
- c.-They made weapons and utensils from stone, wood, bone and horn.
- d.- They discovered fire.

3.- Answer these questions:

- a. What were the first crops that human beings cultivated?
.....
- b. What were the first animals the first animals they domesticated?
.....
- c. Neolithic people lived in permanent villages. What were they called?
.....
- d. They started to make cloth so they invented.... What did they invent to do this?
.....





4.- Write T (true) or F (false). Correct the false sentences.

- _____ Prehistory is the second period of history.
- _____ Towards the end of prehistory, human beings started to build the first cities.
- _____ In the beginning of Prehistory, when human beings were nomads, they lived in small villages.

_____ When prehistoric people became sedentary, they lived in huts made of stones and clay.

_____ Prehistory began about two million years ago.

5.-What do you think these prehistoric tools were used for? Match the picture, the name and the use of the tool. Then write sentences.

| Tools | Pictures of the tools | ...were used for... |
|----------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1.- Clay pots |   | a.- For hunting |
| 2.- Harpoons | | b.- For breaking stones |
| 3.- Arrowheads |   | c.- For storing water |
| 4.- Hammers | | d.- For catching fish |

1.- Clay pots were used for storing water.

2.- _____

3.- _____

4.- _____

6.-Write a sentence about the Metal Age with each group of words.

a. make / metal / agricultural implements

.....

b. wheel / period / was invented

.....

c. artisans / specialised in / people

.....

7.- Complete your bilingual dictionary.

| THE FIRST SETTLERS | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| - Prehistory: _____ | - Artisan: _____ |
| - Palaeolithic Age: _____ | - Trade: _____ |
| - Neolithic Age: _____ | - Bronze: _____ |
| - The Metal Age: _____ | - Copper: _____ |
| - Tribes: _____ | - Iron: _____ |
| - Nomads: _____ | - Wheel: _____ |
| - Sedentary: _____ | - Sail: _____ |
| - Settlement: _____ | - Transport: _____ |
| - Spindle: _____ | - Pottery: _____ |
| - Loom: _____ | - Clay: _____ |