



Times gone by (p. 25)

- 1 Lucy was discovered in 1974 by a team of archaeologists, who were searching for evidence of early hominids in Ethiopia, East Africa.
- 2 Lucy was a new species of hominid, which was named *Australopithecus afarensis*. Lucy's remains were older than any previous hominid evidence found up to that time. Lucy's skeleton was about 40 per cent intact, which allowed scientists to develop a greater understanding of the structure of early hominids. Lucy was discovered to have lived approximately 3.2 million years ago, which allowed scientists to date the existence of bipedal hominids to a much earlier date than any previous findings.



TEACHER RESOURCE PACKAGE

Chapter 1 Overview: the ancient past – Textbook suggested responses

Note this down (p. 26)

Paleolithic period	Neolithic period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunter-gatherers • Nomadic • Small numbers • Basic tool and weapons • Equal contribution • No clear distinction between male and female roles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farming • Settled populations • Large number • Advanced materials • Social hierarchy • Patriarchal dominance



Activity 1.1

1 The four main types of hominids that students should be able to identify are:

- *Australopithecus* (oss-traH-loh-PITH-ek-us) – appeared about 4 million years ago.
- *Homo habilis* – (hoh-moh hab-uh-luhs) appeared about 2.3 million years ago.
- *Homo erectus* – (hoh-moh i-rek-tuhs) appeared about 1.3 million years ago.
- *Homo sapiens* – (hoh-moh sey-pee-uhnz) appeared about 200,000 years ago.

2 The advantages later groups of hominids had over earlier groups in relation to physical and anatomical developments include:

- development of larger brains
- development of more upright mobility, allowing the arms to be used more freely
- larger body size.



Research 1.1

Student responses will vary. However, students should follow the guidelines below.

- Ways in which early humans used fire included:
 - firing clay for pottery
 - extracting metal from ore for the development of tools
 - the cooking of food, making it easier to eat and digest; in the case of some wild plants, it made food taste better and last longer
 - protection from wild animals
 - fostering a sense of community by bringing people together around communal fires and allowing humans to extend their activities beyond daylight hours
 - allowing early humans to adapt to cooling of the climate during periods of climate change and to migrate into colder regions of the world
 - allowing hunters to flush animals out of the undergrowth or caves and creating grasslands for hunting or the development of agriculture.
- Fire was the gift of the God Prometheus to humans. It allowed them to harness its power for the betterment of humankind. The symbolism in the case of the nuclear power generator at Chernobyl relates to the harnessing of the power of the atom for the benefit of humankind.
- Identify through the statement ‘Men, whose life is but a day’ that humans were seen as living a basic existence, like animals. Having fire meant that humans were able to harness the power that was once the sole preserve of the gods. The Chorus was shocked to find that humans had fire, as it meant that they could become more civilised and technologically advanced.
- In today’s debate over nuclear power, one could see governments – who need a cheap source of energy – as Prometheus, and environmental groups such as Greenpeace as the Chorus.



End-of-chapter questions

Multiple choice

- 1 D
- 2 C
- 3 C
- 4 A
- 5 D

Short answer

Student responses will vary. However, students should follow the examples below.

- 1 The skills and knowledge acquired through the scientific disciplines of archaeology and anthropology help researchers study prehistory. Archaeologists dig up and examine artefacts such as fossil and skeletal remains, tools, pottery, paintings, weapons, buildings and everyday items such as household utensils to determine what early people looked like, how they related to their environment and how they lived. Anthropologists, who study how humans live and their social and cultural habits, use these artefacts to determine how people lived their lives. Scientific advances have also assisted in the study of prehistory through the development of such technology as radiocarbon dating, which has allowed archaeologists to date artefacts.
- 2 Early humans foraged for fruit, nuts, green plants and grains, or dug for roots. They were also hunters, who shaped weapons such as spears to hunt for animals. Fire was used to cook food to make it more palatable and to last longer.
- 3 By the time of the Neolithic period, early humans had evolved both socially and technologically. The most significant advance was the development of systematic agriculture in the cultivation of crops and domestication of animals for food and work. Whereas the hominids of the Palaeolithic period were nomadic hunter-gatherers, the development of agriculture in the Neolithic period meant that people were able to

**TEACHER RESOURCE PACKAGE****Chapter 1 Overview: the ancient past – Textbook suggested responses**

develop more settled societies that were permanently located. Humans from the Neolithic period were developing more sophisticated tools and weapons. Early ploughs were in evidence, for instance. Some use of pottery was also in use in the Neolithic period, and there is evidence in the weaving of cloth.

4 Common characteristics of early agricultural societies include:

- the cultivation of grains, vegetables and fruits, as well as the domestication of animals for food
- the development of large settlements, with structures built for shelter, storage and protection
- larger populations than in preceding periods
- the ability to store surplus food and other materials
- accumulation of wealth from agricultural surplus
- trading networks
- a division of labour with specialised roles and crafts, such as blacksmiths, jewellers, priests, and so on
- a social hierarchy based on class, rank and wealth
- early agricultural societies were patriarchal
- men were seen as being the more dominant sex.

5 Significant shared features of early civilisations include:

- a reliance on a shared community
- use of basic tools and weapons
- the use of a written language
- trade networks
- art and religion
- social stratification
- the codification of laws.

**TEACHER RESOURCE PACKAGE****Chapter 1 Overview: the ancient past** – Textbook suggested responses

Source analysis

Student responses will vary. However, students should follow the examples below.

1 Reasons include:

- Recognition that the development of art was the outcome of a greater level of mastery over the environment and the development of creative expression typical of higher order sentient responses to the world.
- The reason for the existence of rock carvings can only be speculated about.
Possible purposes are:
 - They may have been totemic, and served a religious or cultural purpose.
 - They may have been spatial markers indicating the presence or location of particular game.
 - They may be the outcome of an individual's artistic expression.

2 We can learn about many things, such as the presence of early humans in a particular area and what their interests were, what types of animals were present in the area at that time, and the types of technologies used to create the carvings.**Extended response**

Student responses will vary. However, students should follow the guidelines below.

- Broad research is required.
- Cite several sources in their bibliography.
- Identify two or three accurate artefacts that may be uncovered at this site.
- Explain the work that it would take to find them by describing real methods from archaeologists.
- Describe daily life on the site.
- Evaluate what these artefacts can tell us about the civilisation.
- Explain any connections the artefacts have to the modern world, how this relates to evolution and what they tell us about the past.

For more information about archaeology, go to www.cambridge.edu.au/history7weblinks.