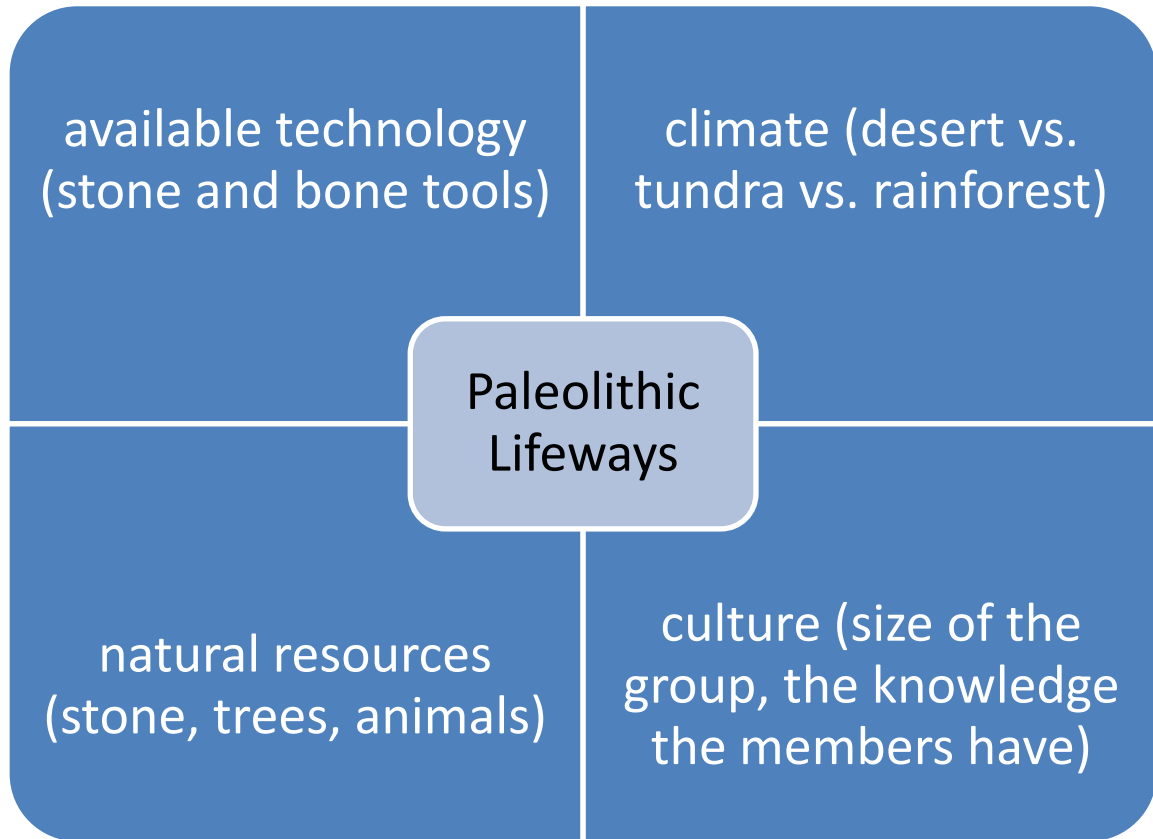


Graphic Organizer



Big Idea Card

Big Ideas of Lesson 5, Unit 2

- Historians use information from a variety of non-textual sources, including existing societies, to study the era of foragers.
- Artifacts such as tools and art help us understand some characteristics of Paleolithic societies.
- The behaviors of modern foraging societies can help us understand what life was like in the Paleolithic Age.
- The quality of life for foragers was dependent on environmental factors like climate, vegetation, and available game for hunting.

Word Cards

Word Cards from previous lessons needed for this lesson:

- Society – Word Card #2 from Lesson 1
- Culture – Word Card #4 from Lesson 1
- Archeology – Word Card #5 from Lesson 1
- Anthropology – Word Card #6 from Lesson 1
- Stone Age – Word Card #12 from Lesson 2
- Evidence – Word Card #18 from Lesson 2
- Artifact – Word Card #19 from Lesson 2

26 Paleolithic Age or Era



the period of the Stone Age that began about 2.5 to 2 million years ago, marked by the earliest use of tools made of chipped stone

Example: The Paleolithic Age is also known as the Old Stone Age.

(SS070205)

27 foragers



a group of people who survive by hunting and gathering over a large region

Example: Foragers spread to most parts of the globe following large mammals.

(SS070205)

28 linguistic artifacts



artifacts that are written language or have writing on them

Example: Linguistic artifacts provide textual information about the past.

(SS070205)

29 non-linguistic artifacts



artifacts that do not have written language like stone tools or human remains

Example: Non-linguistic artifacts like arrowheads help us study prehistory.

(SS070205)

30 lifeways



the ways in which a group of people live, find food, and behave

Example: Foraging lifeways were characteristic of the Paleolithic Age.

(SS070205)

31 social institutions



organizations that large groups of humans (societies, cultures) create to help solve social problems

Example: Religion is one social institution that almost every culture has.

(SS070205)

Artifacts of the Paleolithic Age

1.



Site: Meyral, France

Age: About 250,000 years old

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/handaxe-europe>

Possible Uses:

2.



Site: Blombos Cave, Republic of South Africa

Age: About 77,000 years old

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/bone-awls>

Possible Uses:

1. Based on these artifacts, what sorts of activities were Paleolithic humans involved in? Were they more likely to be hunters or farmers? Explain your evidence.
2. What challenges do archeologists and anthropologists have when trying to interpret these artifacts?

Artifacts of the Paleolithic Age-Teacher Reference Guide

1.



Site: Meyral, France

Age: About 250,000 years old

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/handaxe-europe>

Possible Uses:

- *Hide scraping*
- *Cutting meat off an animal carcass*

2.



Site: Blombos Cave, Republic of South Africa

Age: About 77,000 years old

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/bone-awls>

Possible Uses:

- to make holes in animal hides for clothing*
- to make holes in general*

Background information on tools from <http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/evidenceclothing>

Early Stone Age Tools

The earliest stone toolmaking developed by at least 2.6 million years ago. The Early Stone Age began with the most basic stone implements made by early humans. These Oldowan toolkits include hammerstones, stone cores, and sharp stone flakes. By about 1.76 million years ago, early humans began to make Acheulean handaxes and other large cutting tools. Explore some examples of Early Stone Age tools.

Middle Stone Age Tools

By 200,000 years ago, the pace of innovation in stone technology began to accelerate. Middle Stone Age toolkits included points, which could be hafted on to shafts to make spears; stone awls, which could have been used to perforate hides; and scrapers that were useful in preparing hide, wood, and other materials. Explore some examples of Middle Stone Age tools.

Awls and perforators were probably invented in Africa and carried to colder climates, where they were used to pierce holes in clothing. Later, humans used bone and ivory needles to sew warm, closely fitted garments—perhaps like those carved on some human figurines.

3. Based on these artifacts what sorts of activities were Paleolithic humans involved in? Were they more likely to be hunters or farmers? Explain your evidence.

Answers will vary but could include cutting trees or animals, hunting, making things from stone, making clothing from animal skins/hides.

They were likely to be hunters based on the tools best uses—to kill, carve, or skin and animal rather than to plant or harvest food.

4. What challenges do archeologists and anthropologists have when trying to interpret these artifacts?

Archeologists and anthropologists don't know what the tools are or exactly how they are used; of their information is based on guesses and context clues.

Foraging Lifeways Preview Questions:

1. How do we know what we know about life in the past?
2. How certain can we be about what we know about life in the past? Is what we know “fact” or “theory”?
3. How was life in the Paleolithic era different from life today?
4. How did people organize their lives and communities during the Paleolithic period? They did not have governments like we have to create and enforce rules; how did these people maintain order?

Potentially challenging terms:

- Forager
- Lifeways
- Mode of production
- Corroborate
- Generalization
- Scarcity
- Remains
- Ecology
- Productivity
- Modern standards
- Kilocalories
- Kilometer
- Exploit
- Kinship
- Analogous
- Hierarchies
- Affluent

Foraging Lifeways

Important ideas in my own words:		Questions I have or things I did not understand:
	<p>There is not much archeological evidence about the life of early foragers (people who live by hunting and gathering food). Because of this lack of evidence, scientists and historians study people in the modern world who still live as foragers to make guesses about what this life was like in the past. We can compare things we find from Paleolithic foragers, like tools or fire pits where they cooked their food, to similar things from more recent foraging groups. This comparison of evidence is called corroboration, and we can use to see if our best guesses about the past make sense.</p>	
	<p>Early foragers left very little behind; modern foragers also seem to use almost everything they hunt and gather, and they waste very little. Because of this, we think that early foraging people only took out of the environment what they needed and barely produced enough food to survive. The work was so hard that they probably never had a lot of extra resources, which is called a “surplus.” Because there was little extra food, and few extra resources, populations did not grow quickly, and large groups of people did not form to live together. The population was not dense, meaning that small numbers of people were spread out across large areas of land.</p>	
	<p>Because each group needed a large area to support itself, ancient foragers probably lived most of the time in small groups consisting of a few closely related people. Most of these groups must have been nomadic, moving around a lot, in order to take advantage of their large home territories. Links probably existed between neighboring groups. Almost all human communities encourage marriage away from one’s immediate family. Thus, foraging communities met periodically with their neighbors to swap gifts, stories, to dance together, and to resolve disputes. At such meetings females and males may have moved from group to group for marriage or adoption.</p>	

Important ideas in my own words:	Foraging Lifeways continued	Questions I have or things I did not understand:
	<p>Studies of modern foraging societies suggest that ideas about family and kinship (family connections and relationships), were important to the ways that communities were organized. Leadership was given to family leaders, and family was the basis for these small communities. Rules that people learned had to do with how they should treat family members. These rules were simpler than the laws we have today because people didn't have contact with large numbers of other people, and they didn't have lots of property either.</p>	
	<p>With family as the basis of their societies, foragers probably didn't have very complicated economies (systems of production and exchange of goods and services). Just like today in our own families, when we work together and give each other things, it is often because we are supporting each other and have a common goal. When people exchanged things, it was most likely through gifts and trades. People didn't produce food and goods to sell, they produced them eat and use, and they would share these with family members. Power was held by family leaders, and decisions were probably made by the elders of extended family groups. Punishment, justice, and discipline was likely handled by the family group and their own rules. Levels of power in the family were established based on gender, age, experience, and respect in the family group.</p>	
	<p>Based on how they buried their dead, and the few art objects we have found, we think that ancient foragers saw the natural world and the spirit world as being very connected. Humans were seen as much more connected to the natural world in these times than they are today. Many people seemed to consider animals and other natural things as part of their extended families and communities. If you think about how much people depended upon the natural world, this makes a lot of sense.</p>	

Important ideas in my own words:	Foraging Lifeways continued	Questions I have or things I did not understand:
	<p>In 1972, anthropologist Marshall Sahlins questioned the common belief that life was very difficult and miserable in foraging societies. Using evidence from modern foragers, he argued that from some points of view foragers were likely pretty happy and healthy and lead good lives. In a world where people had no need to obtain and keep lots of material goods, foragers probably saw themselves as having everything they needed because it could be found in the natural world around them. They probably did not feel like they needed to get more and more stuff, and this may have helped them feel more satisfied with their lives. Also, in regions with mild climates, foragers probably had a wide range of healthy food in their diets.</p>	
	<p>Studies have shown that the health of foragers was often better than that of people in early farming communities. In some ways, the work they had to do to gather food might have made them healthier. Perhaps they also lived a life of considerable leisure, meaning they had more time to relax, because they didn't need to spend more than a few hours a day gathering and hunting for what they needed. This would mean that they "worked" a lot less than people today.</p> <p>However, foraging people in ancient times did not live as long as people today, and certainly did face difficult times when life was hard and resources were difficult to find.</p>	

This reading was adapted from: Christian, David. *This Fleeting World: An Overview of Human History*. Pages 9-12. Berkshire Publishing Group 2005.

Paleolithic Cave Dwelling



Picture A shows the mouth of this Paleolithic cave dwelling in Uzbekistan. Picture B shows the view from the mouth of the cave.

Source: Glantz, Michelle, Rustam Suleymanov, Peter Hughes and Angela Schaubert. Anghilak Cave, Uzbekistan: Documenting Neandertal Occupation at the Periphery. *Antiquity* Vol 77 No 295 March 2003. 20 April 2012<<http://antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/glantz/glantz.html>>.

Mammoth Bone Housing



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In eastern Europe at Mezhirich, Ukraine, scientists excavated ancient houses built of mammoth bones, dating between 19,300 and 11,000 years ago. Camps were usually formed of one to five bone-huts; the largest camps may have sheltered up to 50 people.

To build houses, Paleolithic people first selected mammoth bones according to their shape. Skulls, jaws, and other bones formed the foundation. Leg bones formed the walls, and tusks were used at entrances or supported the hide-covered roof. The bones show no signs of butchering, suggesting that the builders collected the bones from long-dead mammoths.

Source: "All About Mammoths and Mastadons: Human Interaction." *Mammoths and Mastadons: Titans of the Ice Age*. Field Museum of Chicago. 20 April 2012<http://archive.fieldmuseum.org/mammoths/allaboutmammoths_interaction_2.asp>.