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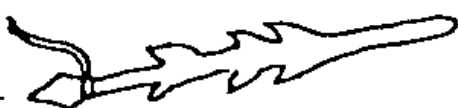
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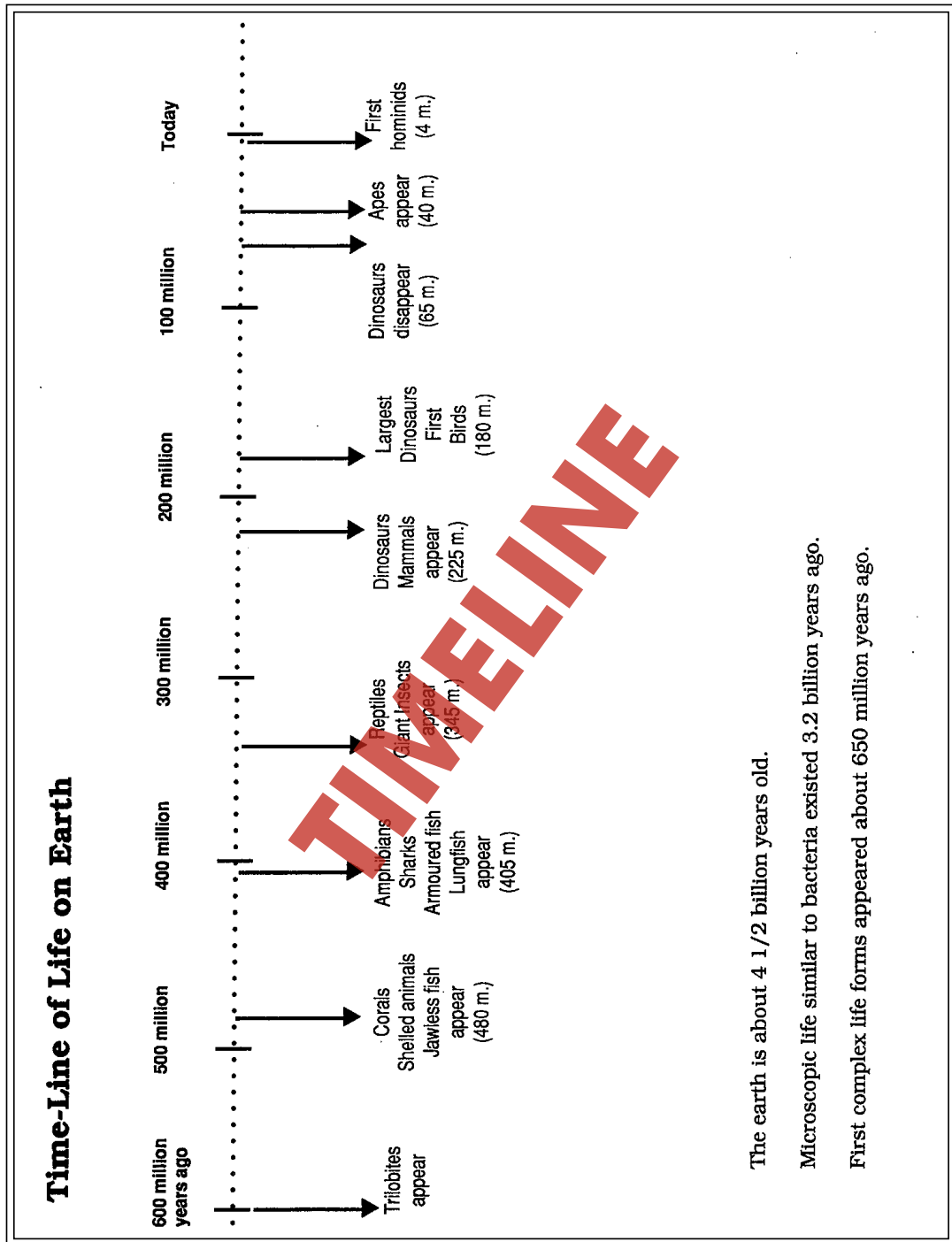
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### Human Characteristics—Large Group Activity

#### What is a human?

There are many ways in which human beings differ from other animals. Our most distinguishing features are:

- ability to consistently walk upright leaving the hands free
- highly developed brain
- spoken language
- stereoscopic vision
- opposable thumbs

These are the characteristics that have enabled us to produce our present-day technology. The five activities that follow illustrate these characteristics.

#### Walking Erect

#### Activity 1

Man is the only animal built to consistently walk upright, which leaves the hands free for other things.

Brainstorm and list all the things we do with our hands.

#### Stereoscopic Vision

#### Activity 2

Human eyes see a separate picture for each eye. Then the brain puts the two pictures together making us better able to judge distances.

Put a dot on a piece of paper and place it 60cm away from yourself. Close one eye and try to touch the dot **without hesitation** with a pencil point. Try closing the other eye. Then do it with both eyes open.

**Discuss:** How can stereoscopic vision help us?

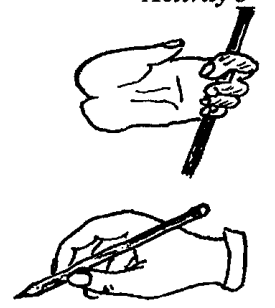
(hunting, fishing, making fine tools and weapons)

#### Opposable Thumbs

#### Activity 3

(The hands of primates grip things in a "power grip" but the thumb cannot touch each finger as human thumbs can. This is one of the key features that has enabled us to perform thousands of skills no other animal can do.)

Use masking tape to tape your thumbs to your index finger. Discuss the activities you are now unable to perform, or that you find extremely difficult. At the end of 5 minutes, untape the thumbs and record the class findings with special reference to skills involving food, clothing, shelter, arts.



### Glossary of Prehistoric Words

Word	Definition	Picture or Use in a Sentence

### Man and Fire

Fire may have been briefly exploited by man over 2 million years ago, but Homo Erectus was the first to use fire systematically. It was a source of heat and light, and was used for cooking, scaring away predators, and as a weapon in big-game hunting. Fire also enabled man to populate cold areas which would have been uninhabitable without the warmth generated by campfires.





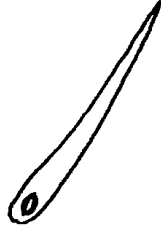



The beginnings of fire use probably occurred when lightning struck, and fascinated hominids overcame their fear and pulled out burning sticks to have a closer look. The obvious properties of fire—light and heat—would make it a desirable tool, but it was probably many thousands of years before fire was "kept" by hominids, and a very long time before they learned to produce it. In the beginning fires were probably tended carefully and transported from campsite to campsite.

It may have been tool-makers working with flint objects who learned to "produce" fire at will. Sparks often resulted from this activity, and after falling on dry leaves or other flammable material, the sparks turned into a tool that changed human life forever.



**Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal Tools**

- A. Match each tool with its name.  
 B. If the tool is a Cro-Magnon tool put a C in the box.  
 If the tool is a Neanderthal tool put an N in the box.

			
			
point	harpoon	sidescraper	needle
notch tool	burin	backed knife	arrowhead

**Homes—Research**

**Activity 1**

Use resource books to draw 2 kinds of homes used by early man. Tell how each was made.


Which home would you rather live in? \_\_\_\_\_

Give your reasons \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Comparison Chart**

Work with a partner. Look carefully at the large picture of prehistoric life. You see a number of people demonstrating their culture. (Culture means things we do and things we make.)

1. For each category, tell what was done or made in prehistoric times, what we do today, and what we may be doing or using in the future—100,000 years from now!

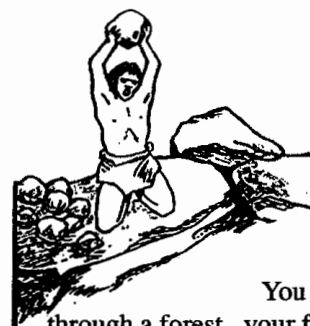
2. Try to find a new category for number four.

Category	Prehistoric Culture	Our Culture	The Future
1. Weapons			
2. Food			
3. Homes			
4.			

\*See Teachers Notes 3

**Creative Writing**

**Activity 1**



**The Wolf Pups**

You are a prehistoric child. As your family walks through a forest, your father sees a wolf and kills it. Nearby you find two little wolf pups crying for their mother. Start your story at this point.