

## PREHISTORIC TIMES

**In this unit you will:**

- Ø learn about the Paleolithic Age
- Ø learn about Homonisation
- Ø learn about Neolithic Age
- Ø learn about the art of the hunters
- Ø learn about how the early people lived

We have to go back in time one, two, three million years. Nobody knows when exactly the first human beings lived on Earth. We call this period of time **prehistory** (pre – means before). It is the period of time before people could read and write. We know about this time from objects these people left behind, like bones, tools, weapons, clothes, tombs or paintings. They were found and interpreted by archeologists.

**Christian Jurgensen Thomsen (1788 – 1865)**, a director of a museum in Copenhagen, Denmark, divided the Prehistoric Times into three periods:

1. **Stone Age**
2. **Bronze Age**
3. **Iron Age**



Christian Jürgensen  
Thomsen (1788–1865)

**Test Yourself:**

1. What is Prehistory?
2. When do you think the Ancient Times start?
3. Who was Christian Thomsen?
4. Which period in the history of a mankind is the oldest and the longest?
5. What did Christian Thomsen use as a guide to divide the Prehistoric Times into three periods

## PALEOLITHICAL AGE

**1. Read the following article. After reading complete the chart below the article.**

Paleolithic Age or Old Stone Age is generally subdivided into:

- q Old Paleolithic ( 3 000 000 – 250 000 BC)
- q Middle Paleolithic ( 250 000 – 40 000 BC)
- q Young Paleolithic (40 000 – 8 000 BC)

## Old Paleolithic (3 000 000 – 250 000 BC)

The first human-like creatures appeared on our planet in Africa c 3 000 000 years BC. These man-apes came down from the trees and began to walk on two legs. The most complete man-ape skeleton was found in Ethiopia, East Africa in 1974. Its scientific name was **Australopithecus** (meaning southern ape) and the skeleton was nicknamed Lucy.

2 000 000 years BC **Homo Habilis – Handy man** appeared. He was the first man to make very primitive tools. Its fossils have been found in Eastern Africa and Java.

1 000 000 years BC **Homo Erectus – Upright Man, Walking Man** appeared in Africa. Upright Man was a good hunter, food – gatherer and a nomad. He must have hunted in groups because as an individual he was not able to hunt such large animals. He had bigger brain and could make some sounds, nearly could talk. He could also make a fire and cook. He lived in temporary dwellings – caves, later on in shelters as he was forced to move after animals. He used a sharply pointed hand-axe with two cutting edges. Its fossils have been found in Northern Africa, Java, Asia, Tanzania, and Germany

## Middle Paleolithic (250 000 – 40 000 BC)



c 300 000 BC appeared **Homo Sapiens – Wise Man** and **Neanderthal Man**.

The first described Neanderthal skeleton came from a cave in the valley of the Neander River in Germany. In **1856** some workers discovered a cave full of bones near the Neander River. The bones were studied by professor **Johann Carl Fuhlrott (1804 – 1877)** who gave the name to the Neanderthal Man.



c 100 000 BC **Neanderthal Man** appeared in Slovakia. In Ganovce, High Tatras was found the brain that belonged to a Neanderthal Man. This finding was saved by **Jaroslav Petrboek**. The Neanderthal Man had a bigger brain, thicker bones and strong muscles. He buried their dead in graves and often placed tools and food beside the bodies. In most graves bear bones were found, perhaps to them the bear was a sacred animal whose bones might protect them in the life to come.

## Young Paleolithic (40 000 – 8 000 BC)

Neanderthal Man died out c 40 000 BC and at much the same time an improved version of Wise Man appeared who was called **Homo Sapiens Sapiens**. Physically he was almost as us. he wore clothes of skin and made new tools as wooden spear, arrow, bow

| AGE<br>DATE | TYPE OF MAN<br>DATE | LOCATION | TOOLS<br>WAYS<br>LIVING | OF<br>OTHER<br>IMPORTANT<br>FEATURES |
|-------------|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|             |                     |          |                         |                                      |
|             |                     |          |                         |                                      |
|             |                     |          |                         |                                      |

**2. Look at the following pictures. Use the vocabulary below to talk about the life of hunters.**

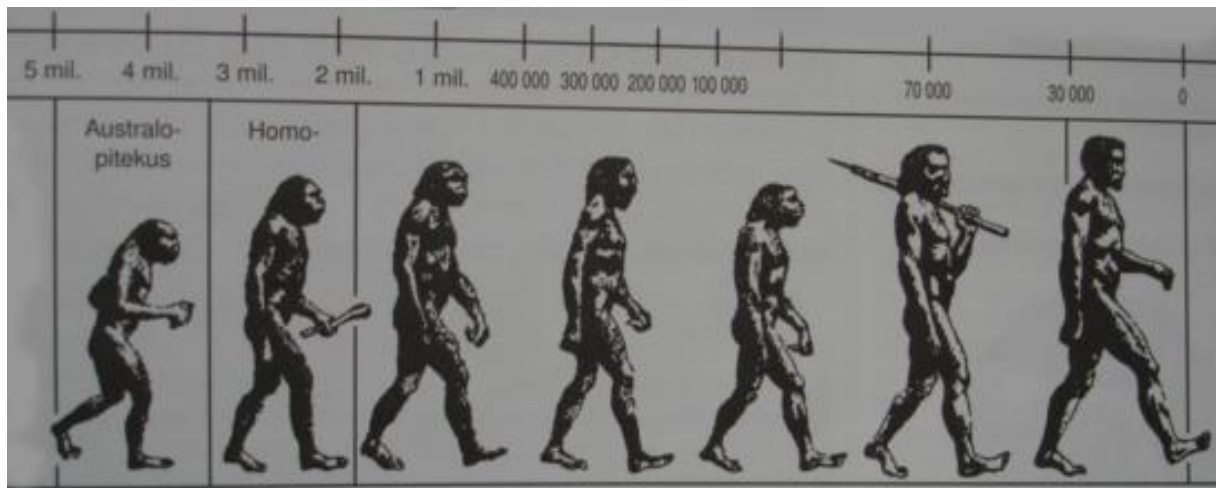
scraper, wooden spear, cleaver, denticulate – a stone tool with a serrated edge, sharpening a spear point, spearing a big meaty mammal, cutting up a large mammal, scraping fat and flesh from a hide to clean it



### 3. HOMONISATION

What is homonisation?

Below each picture write down the name of a Man.



### 4. Explain the new words you have learned.

- § prehistory
- § food gatherer
- § homo sapiens
- § tombs
- § nomad
- § hand – axe
- § fossils
- § physical appearance