



# Introduction to History

**Welcome to our  
school and to my  
history class!**



## This presentation includes...

- many **stories about human history**;
- an account of different **periods** in history;
- some **simple timelines** from **different perspectives**;
- an explanation of terms like **BCE, CE, BC, AD** and **BP**;
- details about the human way of life in the **prehistoric period**.



# Resources

that may be useful with this presentation

- **Handout:** [The Periods of History](#) (corresponds to Slides 4-23)
- **Handout:** [Becoming a Timelord](#) (Slides 27-36)
- **Online Quiz:** [Describing Times and Periods in History](#) (Slides 5-36)
- **Chronology of History:** [Jumble Kahoot](#)
- **Video:** [The History and Future of Everything](#) by “In a Nutshell” (Slide 36)
- **Recommended Website:** [The Neolithic Revolution](#)
- **Video:** [Stories from the Stone Age, Part 1](#) (Slide 59)
- **Handout:** [Stories from the Stone Age - Fill the Gaps](#) OR **Edpuzzle (Video Quiz):** [Stories from the Stone Age](#)
- [Notes on "Stories from the Stone Age" \(for Teachers or Extension Work\)](#)
- **Handout:** [SWOT \(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats\): The Beginning of Farming](#) (Slides 46-59)
- **Textbook:** *Humanities Alive 7*, pp. 11-13, 31-45



# Dividing the Human Past into Periods

(see also your handout)

## Prehistoric Period



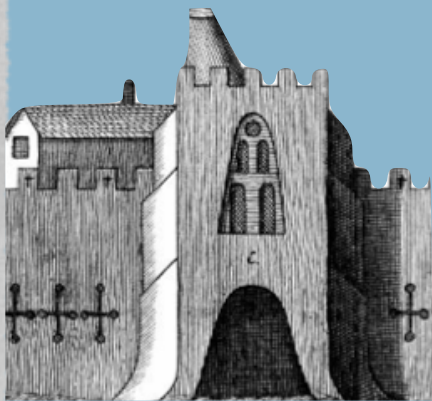
At least 2 million years ago until about 3300 BCE (the period before people could write)

## Ancient Period



From 3300 BCE until 476CE  
(when the western part of the Roman Empire fell)

## Medieval Period



From 476AD until about 1500 (this depends on your historian)

## Modern Period



About 1500 until the present



# You can also show these periods on a timeline:

This is not drawn to scale. A mathematician would be **horrified**.

## Prehistory

## History

### Prehistoric Period

### Ancient Period

### Medieval Period

### Modern Period

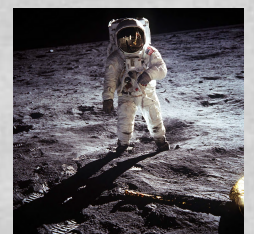
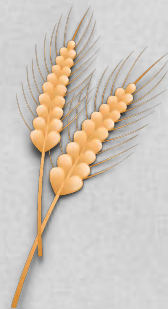
Now!

3300  
BCE

476  
CE

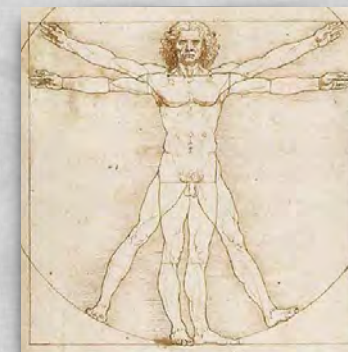
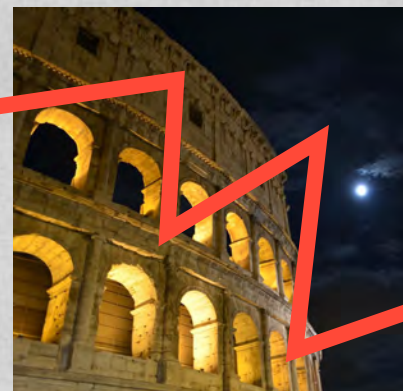
1500  
CE

2 million +  
years ago



Western  
Rome falls.

Renaissance



"Vitruvian Man"

Early humans  
begin to make  
tools.

Humans begin  
to write.

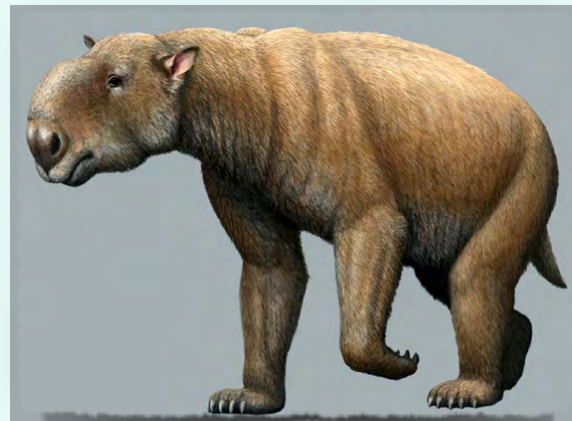


The timeline on the previous slide presents  
**a Western and European perspective of human history.**

Here is another point of view:



After a long and hazardous voyage, the first Aboriginal people arrive in Australia,  
**65,000+ years ago.**



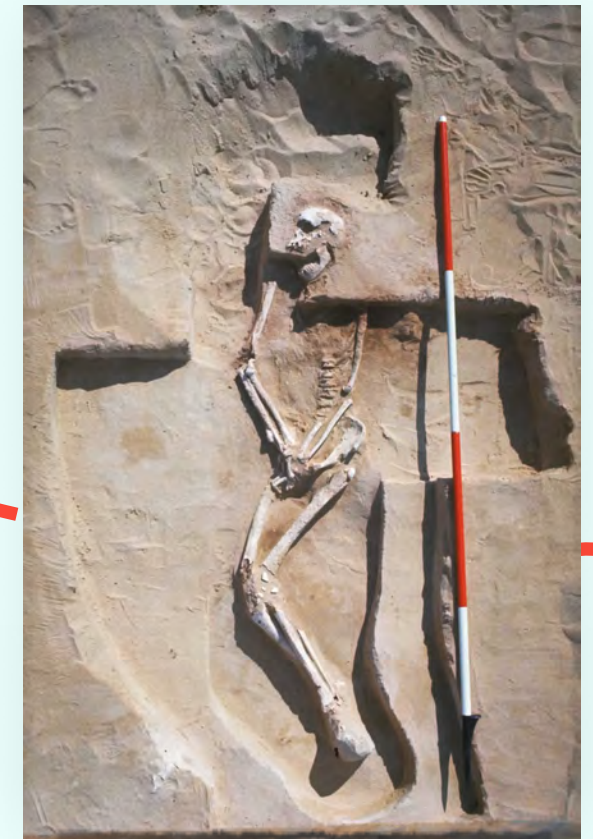
The giant marsupial, the diprotodon, is believed to have become extinct about  
**50,000 years ago.**

[Image Link](#)



Some Kimberley rock art is believed to be up to **50,000 years old.**

[Image Link](#)



“Mungo Man” (and other early Australians) were buried at Lake Mungo **40,000 years ago.**

[Image Link](#)





# History from Down Under...

Another point of view continued:



The Aboriginal peoples developed diverse cultures and spoke 250 different languages.

Image: <https://imgbin.com/>



Tasmania and its people were cut off from the mainland **12,000 years ago**.



The Gunditjmara people of Western Victoria set up a complex eel farming economy **6,500 years ago**.

Image Link





# History from Down Under...

Another point of view continued:



Dingoes were introduced into Australia by Asian seafarers about **4000 years ago**.



Aboriginal people resisted the arrival of James Cook in **1770**.



The Aboriginal warrior Pemulwuy fought back against the European invaders in **1792**.

[Image Link](#)





# Classifying Events into Periods

Each of the next 12 slides contains a **picture**, a **brief explanation** and a **date**.

Your task is to work out in which period each event took place. Add one example from each period to your handout.

**Example:** The stone tool below belongs in the prehistoric period.



**First stone tools**  
Over 2 million years ago

## The Periods of History

**Artefact** – anything made or shaped by people, eg. a tool, work of art, weapon, piece of jewellery or clothing  
**Important event/development** – new knowledge, skill or occurrence that influences how people live

### PREHISTORIC PERIOD

2 million years ago to about 3300BC (when people began to write)

Cave paintings – the first of these was about 30,000 years ago. (This one is more recent.)

Goats domesticated – about 10,000 BC

First stone tools  
Over 2 million years ago

Mammoths become extinct in about 10000BC.

### Ancient Period

About 3300BC to 476AD

Great pyramid built about 2570BC

Roman empire controls huge territory: one of their blood sports

### Medieval Period

476AD until about 1500

Most Europeans are poor peasants.

William the Conqueror wins the Battle of Hastings, 1066.

### Modern History

About 1500 until the present

Over centuries new ideas emerge – in art and science, and every field of human activity.

Australian nation formed in 1901

First BBC TV program - 1936



# Which period?



At least 13,000 years ago: some wolves began to evolve into dogs. Dogs began to live with humans, who began to influence dog evolution and breeding. In other words, dogs were **domesticated**.



# Which period?



The first stone tools were made, at least 2 million years ago.



# Which period?



The Magna Carta was signed in 1215 CE in England: this provided a guarantee of certain basic human rights.



# Which period?



The Neanderthals, another kind of human being (sometimes called a hominid) died out about 30,000 years ago.



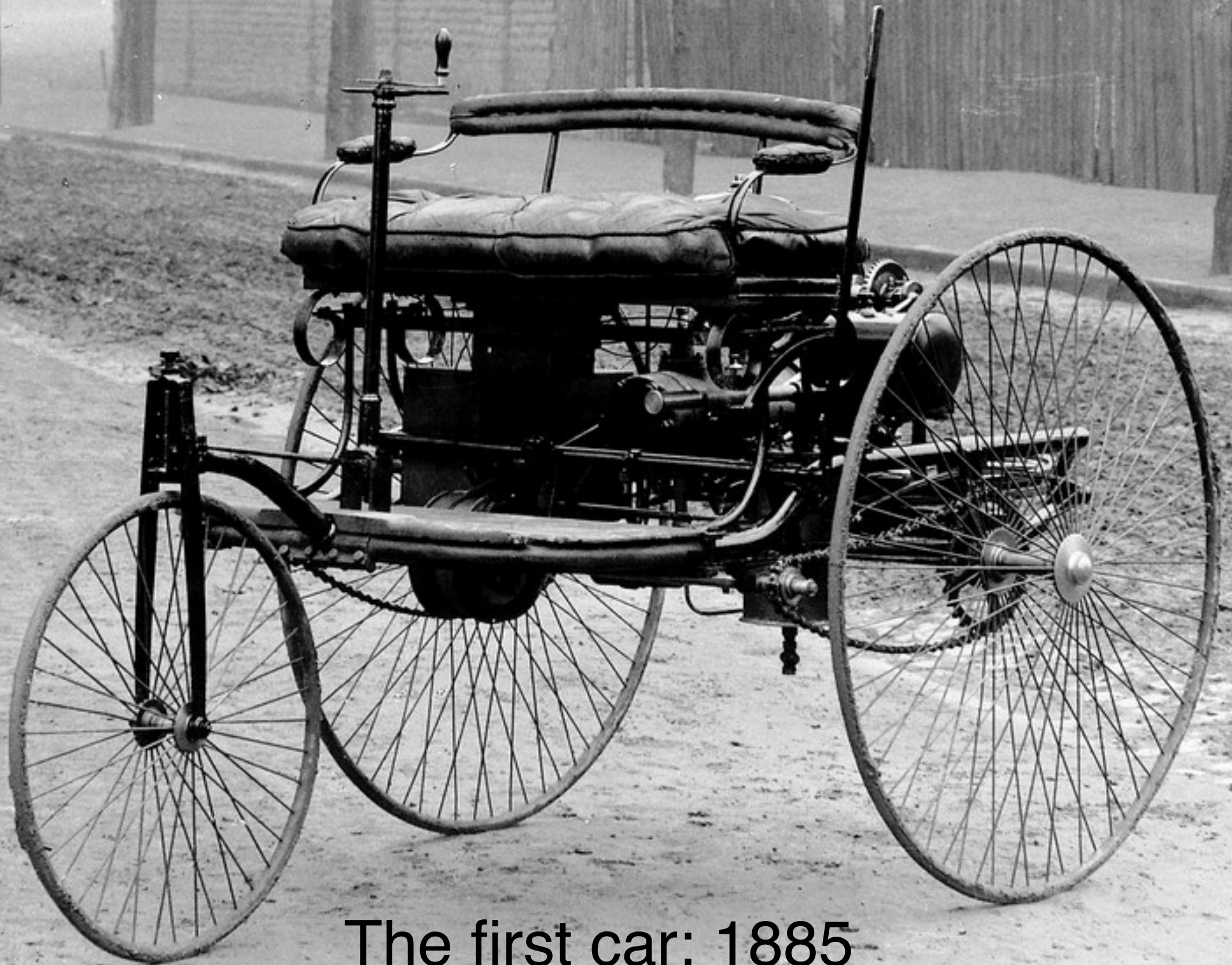
# Which period?

The Parthenon in Athens was built in the 5th century BCE.





# Which period?

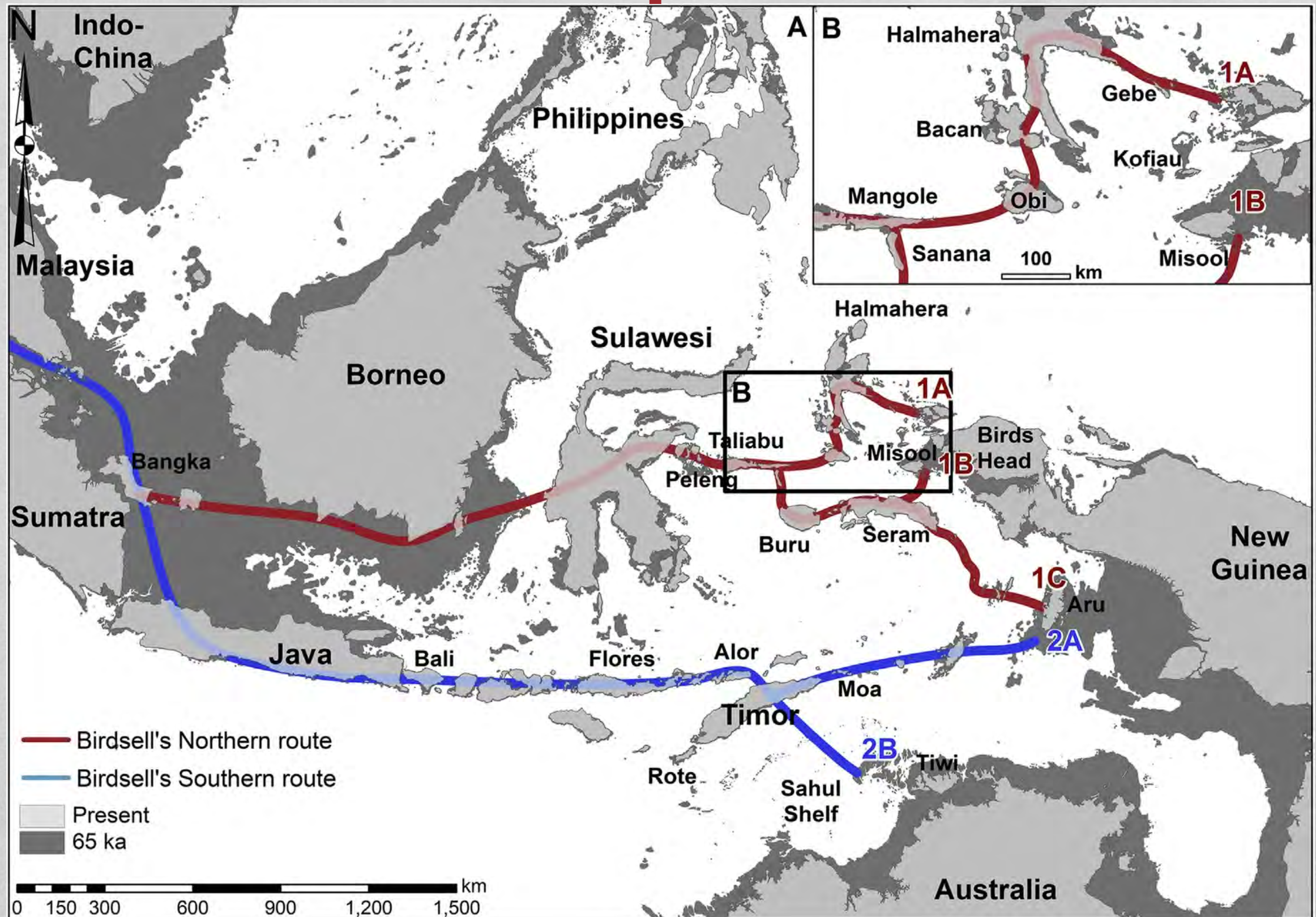


The first car: 1885



# Which period?

Map Source



The first Aboriginal people travelled to Australia: this first great sea journey of the human species is believed to have taken place at least 65,000 years ago.





Which  
period?

First smartphone, 2007



# Which period?



Photo by Matthew Abbott, from BBC coverage, showing a burning house in Conjola, New Year's Eve, 2019

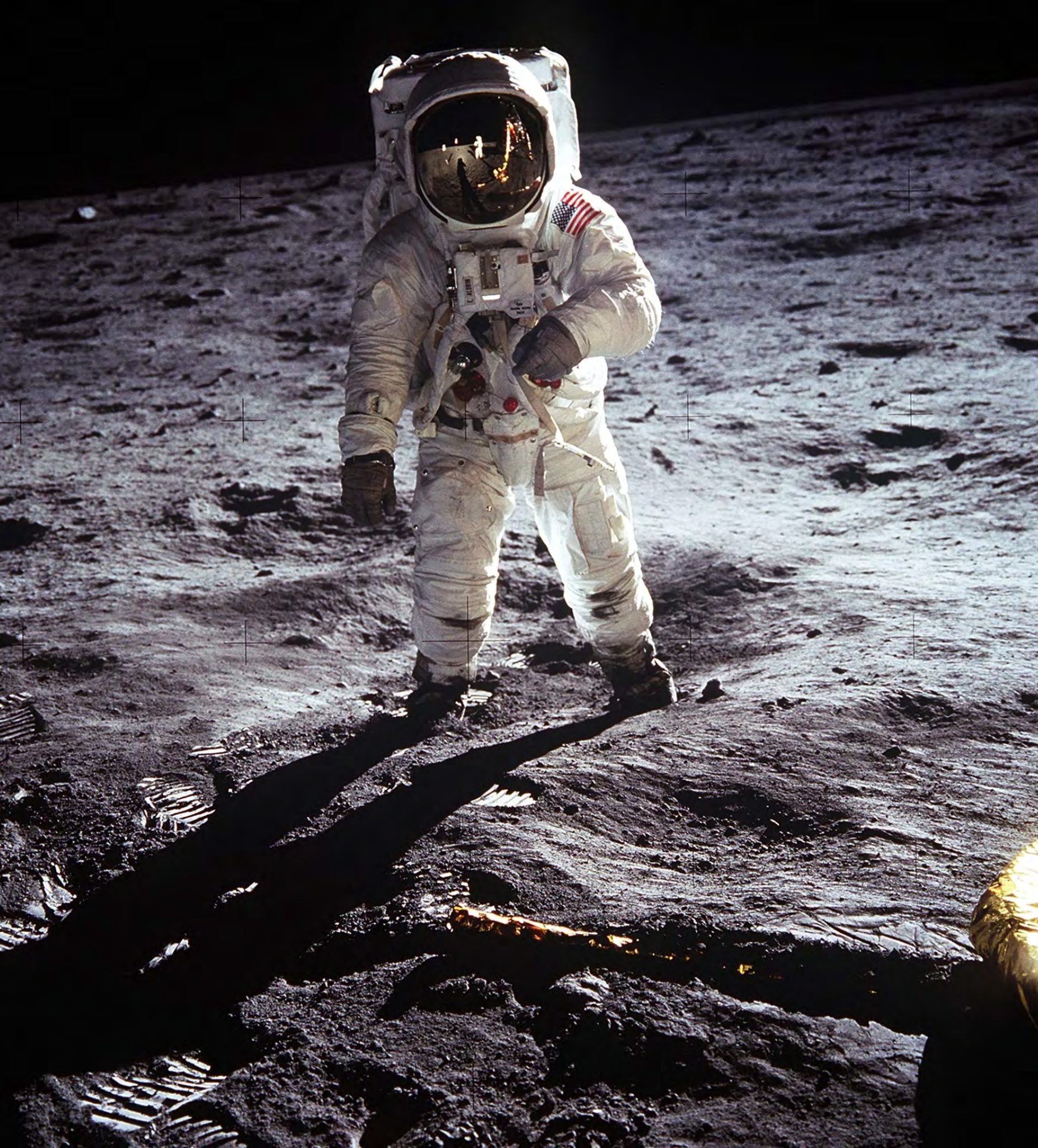


# Which period?



**The Colosseum in Rome was built in the 1st century CE.**





# Which period?

The first humans  
landed on the moon  
in 1969.



# Which period?



Vincent Van Gogh painted “The Starry Night” in 1889.





*Habit des Medecins, et autres personnes  
qui visitent les Pestiferés, Il est de  
marroquin de leuant, le masque a les yeux  
de cristal, et un long nez rempli de parfums*

# Which period?

The Black Death, a horrific and usually fatal disease, struck the people of China, then travelled westward to Europe, where at least one-third of the population died, in 1348.

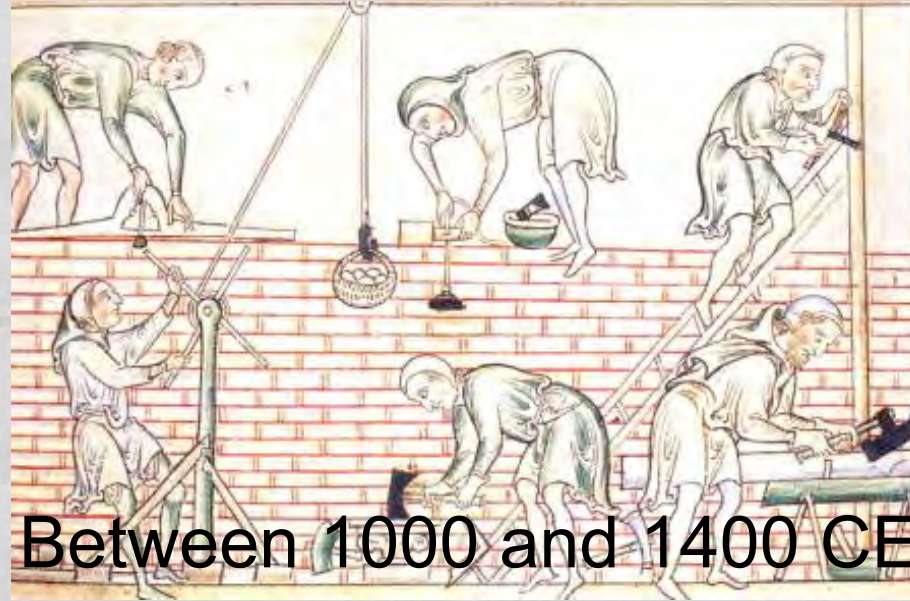
This is how the doctors dressed in the hope of reducing their infection rate.



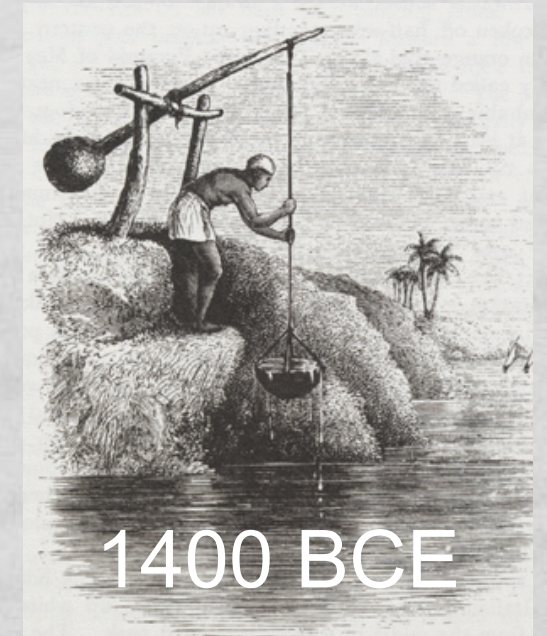
# Which picture goes with which period?



(a) Collins Street, Melbourne



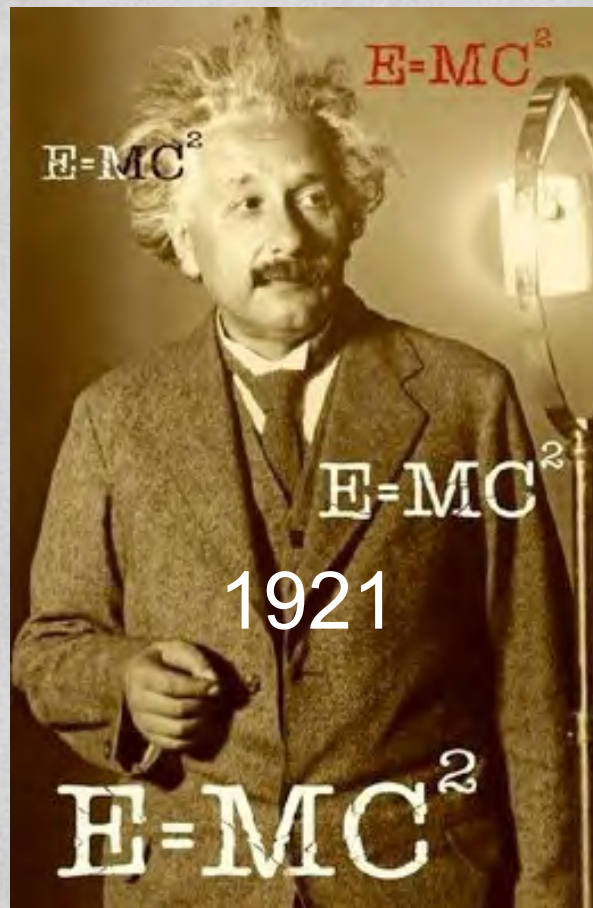
(b) Building a castle



(c) A shaduf in Egypt



(d) Domestication of sheep



(e) Theory of relativity



(f) First writing



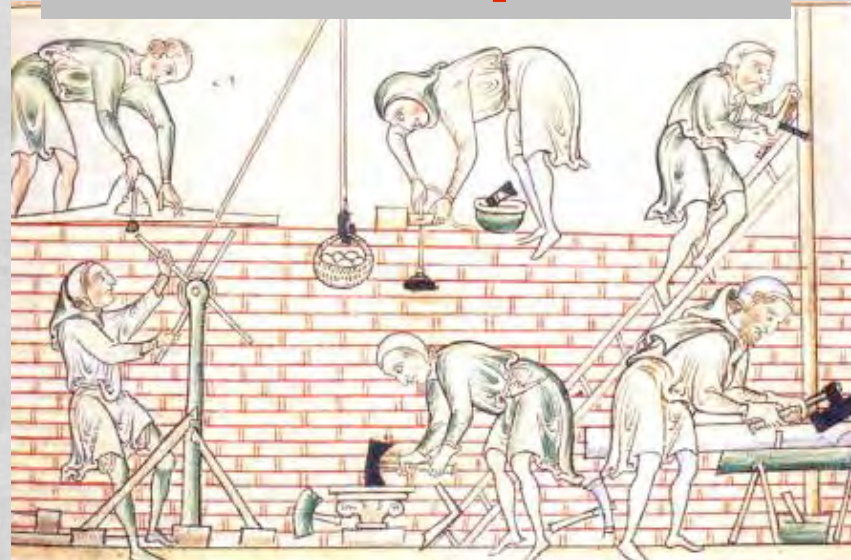
# Which picture goes with which period? **Answers**

**1895 - Modern Period**

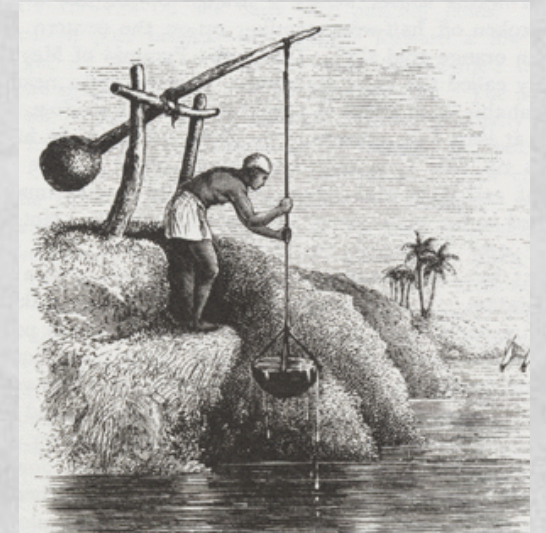


**(a) Collins Street, Melbourne**

**Medieval period**



**(b) Building a castle**



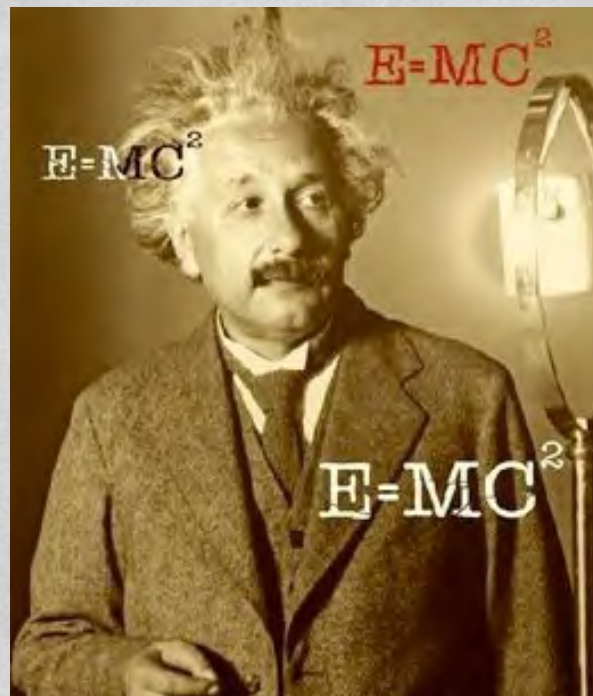
**Ancient period  
about 1400 BC**

**(c) A shaduf in Egypt**



**Prehistoric period  
- 10,000 years ago**

**(d) Domestication of sheep**



**Modern period  
- 1921**

**(e) Theory of relativity**

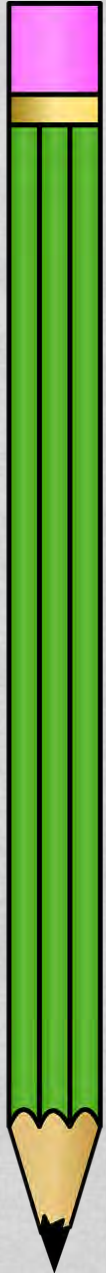


**Ancient period  
about 3300 BC**

**(f) First writing**



# Quick Quiz - The Story So Far



- a** Another term for **perspective** in history is the phrase...
- b** The period between the **ancient** and **modern periods** is sometimes called the Middle Ages or the ...
- c** A **chronological diagram** showing events in historical order is called a ...
- d** An example of a **change in technology** is... (many possible answers)
- e** List 2-3 important **skills or changes** that have contributed to the development of the human story.

## **Possible Answers (if you need extra help):**

medieval period • point of view • timeline • learning to write OR  
learning to farm OR domesticating animals OR building and  
using boats... • using tools OR developing transport options  
OR new architectural methods OR using metals...



# Extra Reading from Your Text

(if time permits)

Read pages 37-39:

- “An Amazing Journey”
- “When did people first come to Australia?”

Why might these people have decided to make such a long, challenging and perilous journey?







# Becoming a Timelord

Today we shall...

- learn how to use terms like BCE, BC, AD, CE and BP;
- focus on putting events into chronological order.

## Extra Activities

(in order to become a certified timelord):

- [Corresponding handout](#)
- Online quiz: [Describing Times and Periods in History](#)
- Chronology of history: [Jumble Kahoot](#)

The last 2 activities will have to be put off until your laptops arrive.



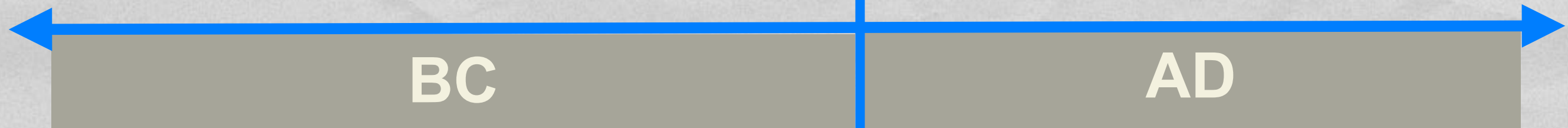
# Talking About Time in History



The traditional way of referring to time in history comes from the Christian **perspective** or **world view**:

**BC = Before Christ**

**AD = Anno Domini = The Year of our Lord**



Birth of  
Christ



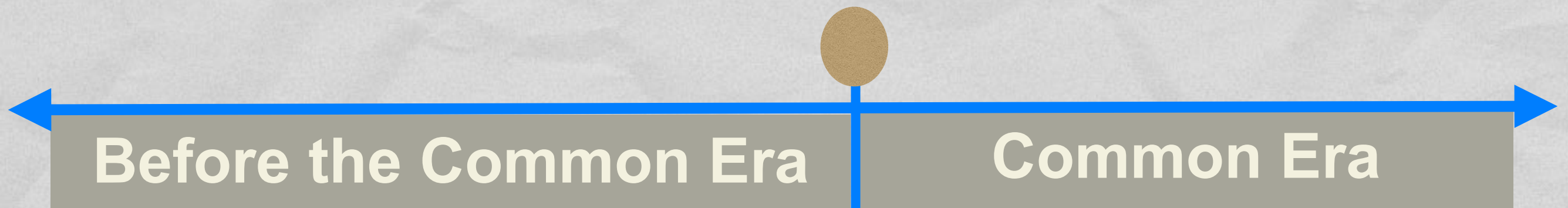
# Talking About Time in History



After a while, people began to think that a **non-religious, neutral** way of referring to time might be a good idea:

**BCE = Before the Common Era**

**CE = Common Era**



The birth of Christ still marks the cutoff point between the eras, but there is no reference to Christ.



# Talking About Time in History



For very long time periods such as more than 10,000 years, it's not really necessary to use either BC/AD or BCE/CE. Instead, you can just say “before the present” or BP.

Now

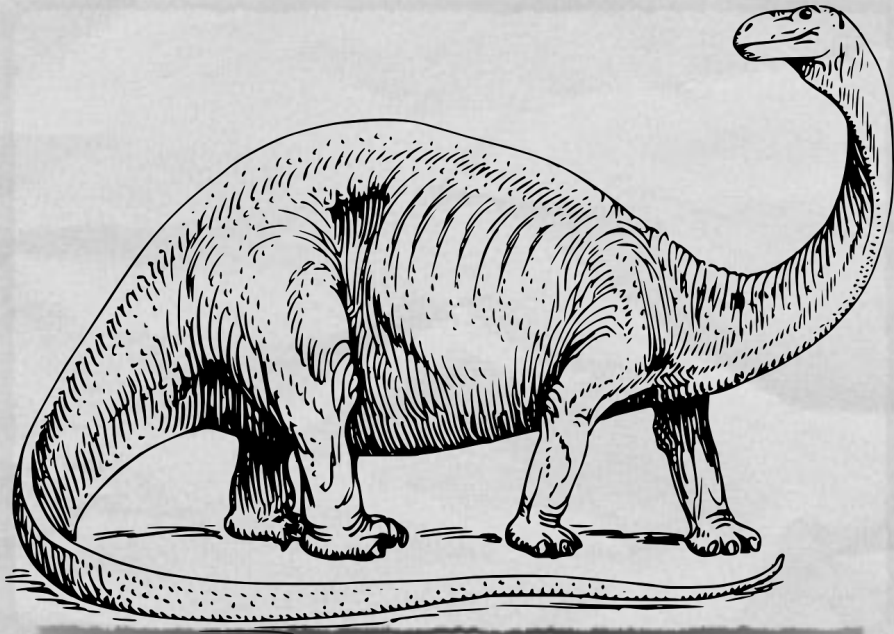
Before the Present (BP)

**Scientists** often use the term **BP** because they deal with very long time periods in the distant past.

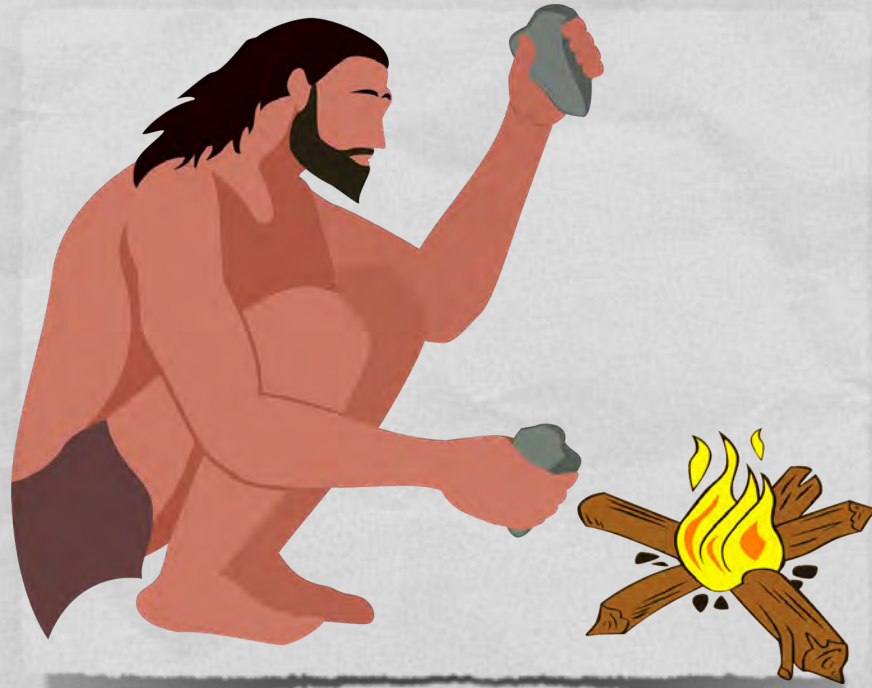
Historians who study the **deep past**, such as **archaeologists** and **palaeontologists**, also use this term.



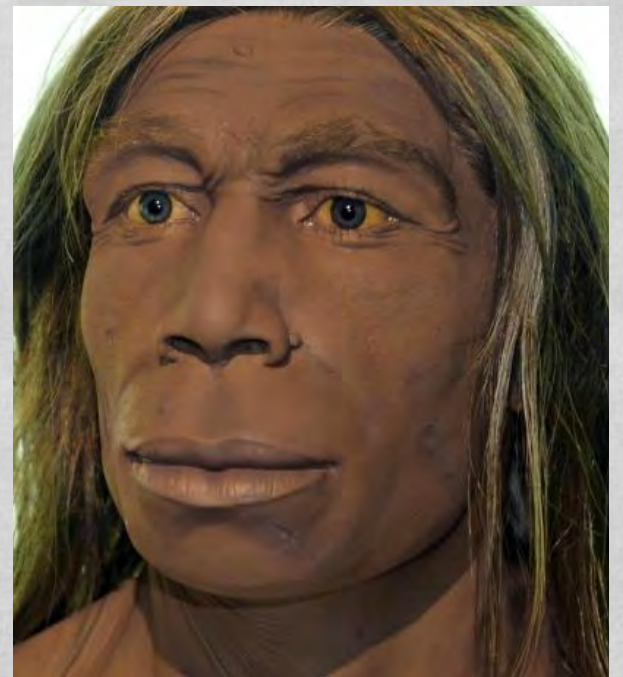
# Using BP - Before the Present



The dinosaurs  
died out 67  
million years  
ago or  
**67,000,000  
years BP.**



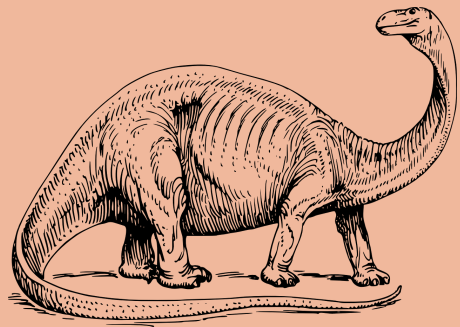
Early hominids (the  
human species before  
us) began to make fire  
at least 400,000 years  
ago or **400,000 years  
BP.**



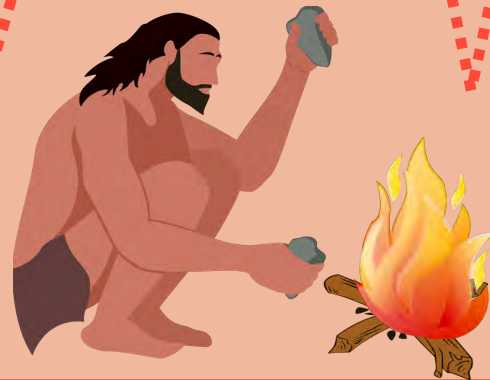
The  
Neanderthals  
died out about  
**30,000 years BP.**



67,000,000  
years BP



400,000  
years BP



> 65,000  
years BP



>30,000  
years BP



R.I.P.

>13,000  
years BP



c.3500 BCE



c. 3300 BCE



2560 BCE



438 BCE



209BCE



79 CE



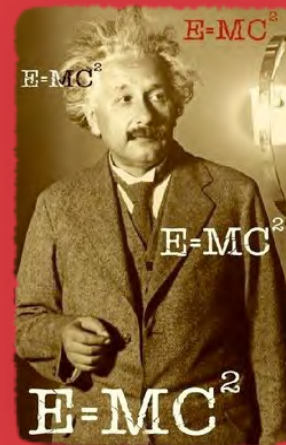
1215 CE



1348 CE



1925 CE



1969 CE



2019 CE





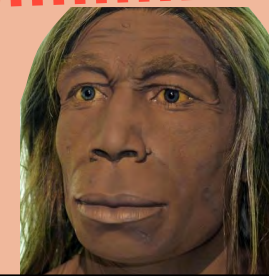
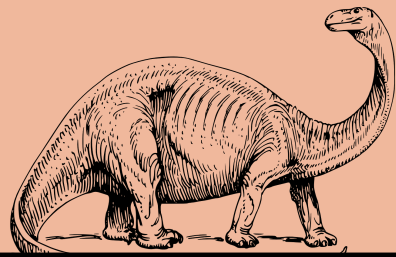
67,000,000  
years BP

400,000  
years BP

> 65,000  
years BP

30,000  
years BP

>13,000  
years BP



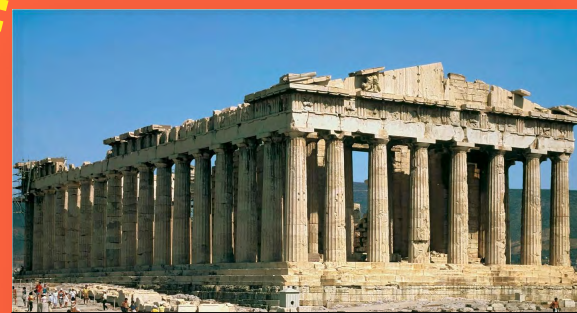
c.3500 BCE

3300 BCE

2560 BCE

438 BCE

209 BCE



79 CE

1215 CE

1348 CE

1925 CE

1969 CE

2019 CE





# How Dating and Timelines Work

[Corresponding handout](#)

**1** Which events tend to be labelled BP?

**a** prehistoric    **b** ancient    **c** medieval    **d** modern

**2 Circle: Before the Common Era (BCE)**, the numbers increase/decrease as time passes.

**3 Circle: In the Common Era (CE)**, the numbers increase/decrease as time passes.

**4** Label the timeline on your handout with the following words or phrases. Work in pairs and help each other:

first writing • constructive fire • destructive fire • Magna Carta • Black Death •  
moon landing • Great Pyramid • terracotta warriors • invention of the wheel  
• Theory of Relativity • human extinction • domestication • animal extinction •  
Aboriginal people's sea journey • Parthenon • Vesuvius erupts

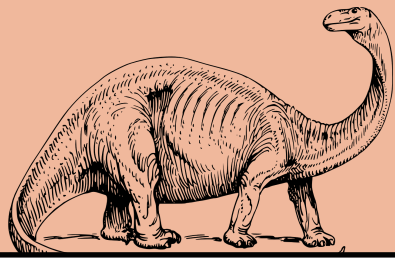
**(See answers on next slide)**

**5** Find an example of:

**a** a major technological advance    **b** a natural disaster    **c** an architectural achievement    **d** a long journey    **e** a change in communication



67,000,000  
years BP



animal extinction

400,000  
years BP



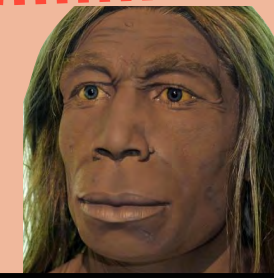
constructive fire

> 65,000  
years BP



Aboriginal people's  
sea journey

30,000  
years BP



human extinction

>13,000  
years BP



domestication

c.3500 BCE



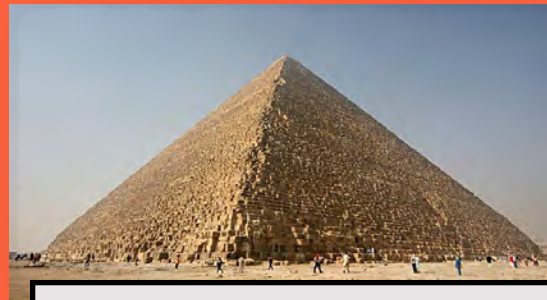
invention of  
wheel

3300 BCE



first writing

2560 BCE



Great Pyramid

438 BCE



Parthenon

209 BCE



terracotta warriors

79 CE



Vesuvius erupts

1215 CE



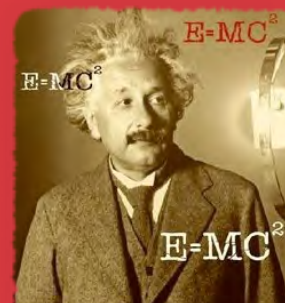
Magna Carta

1348 CE



Black Death

1925 CE



Theory of  
Relativity

1969 CE



Moon  
landing

2019 CE



destructive fire



# The History and Future of Everything - by Kurz gesagt - In a Nutshell

21st CENTURY



The Sims



Wikipedia



YouTube



iPhone I



Kurzgesagt



Episode VII



Car in Space

2000

2017

View this video on YouTube: [Time: The History and Future of Everything](#)



# Human Prehistory

Today we shall...

learn about **hunting and gathering**, the lifestyle that all humans led until between 12,000 and 10,000 years ago.



Modern hunters and gatherers living in Africa



# The Hunting and Gathering Lifestyle of the Old Stone Age



Until 12,000 to 10,000 years ago, every person in the world lived by hunting and gathering.

The period before this is commonly referred to as the Old Stone Age or the Palaeolithic Period.





## Hunting

Hunting wild animals for meat was often carried out by the men.

## Art

People painted herds of animals on cave walls.

## Gathering

Often done by women and children, this involved collecting seeds, wild plants, tubers, fruits and nuts.

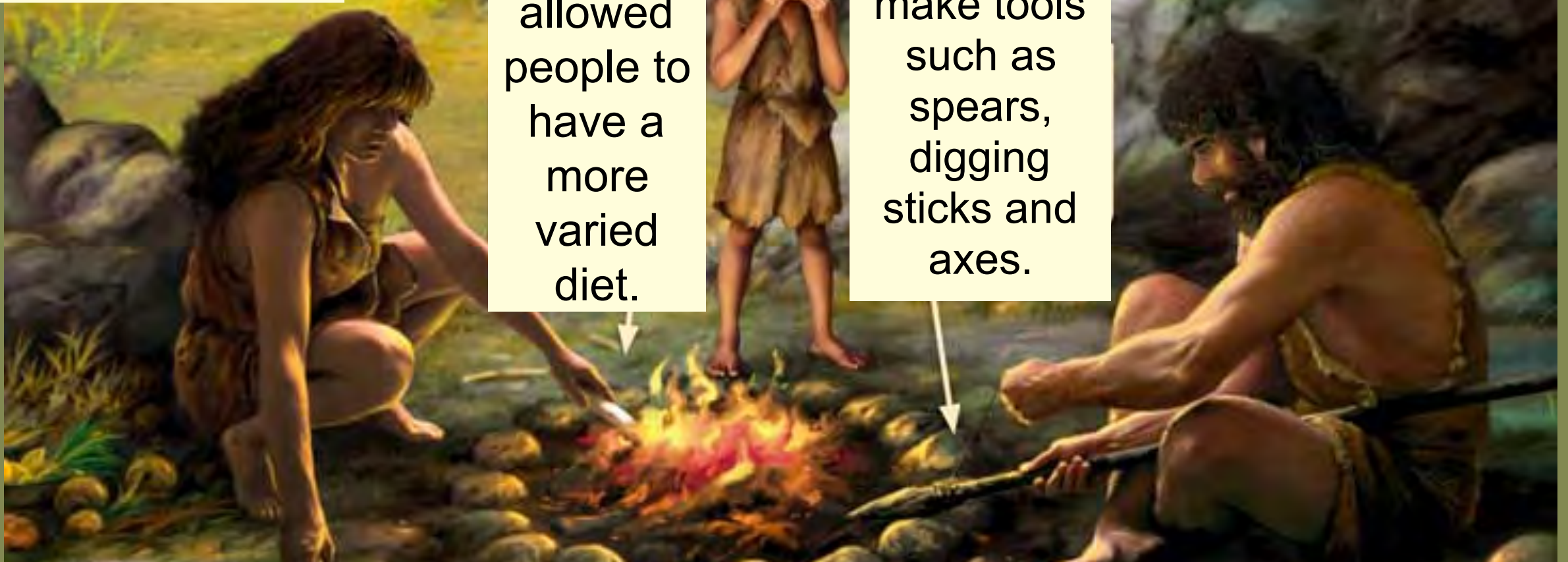


## Fire

Using fire allowed people to have a more varied diet.

## Tools

Early people learned to make tools such as spears, digging sticks and axes.





# Think, Pair, Share:

- How would making tools have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

**Your thought**

**Your partner's thought**

**Shared Class Ideas**



At least 2 million  
years BP





- How would tools have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

## My Suggestions



At least 2 million years before the present

Digging sticks to collect wild foods

Being able to tan animal skins and make clothing

Weapons to defend themselves and kill animals for meat

Using a tool to make another tool or weapon



Making fire



# Think, Pair, Share:

- How would **using fire** have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?

**Your thought**

**Your partner's  
thought**

**Shared Class Ideas**





# •How would using fire have helped hunters and gatherers to survive?



## My Suggestions

People could use fire to protect themselves from wild animals.

Fire allowed food to be **cooked**, which meant easier **digestion**, better health and more food variety.

Fire provided warmth and light through the long, dark winters.

The Aboriginal people used fire to burn back the land and encourage regrowth.



# The Old Stone Age

## Reading from Your Text

Read page 33:

- “Technologies and Peoples”

**a** Make a list of all the **skills** that Old Stone Age people needed to develop in order to survive.

**b** Which of these abilities would best suit **your own skill set**?



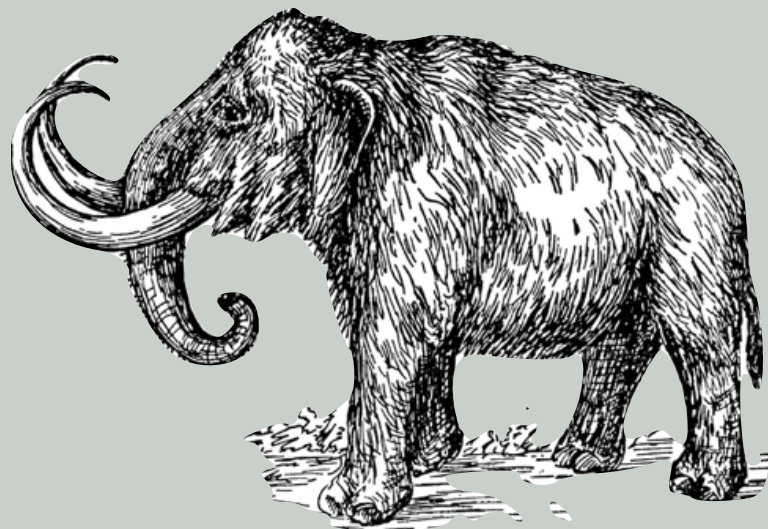


## Download Handout:

### The Old and New Stone Ages and the Lifestyle of Hunter-Gatherers

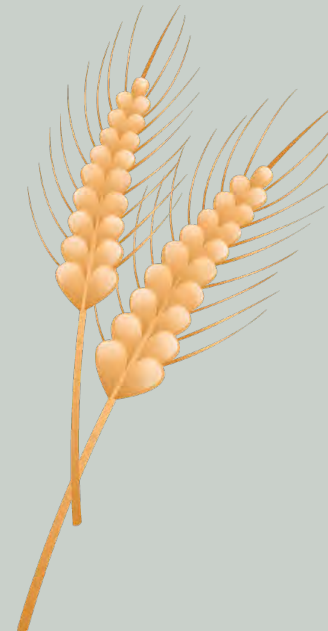
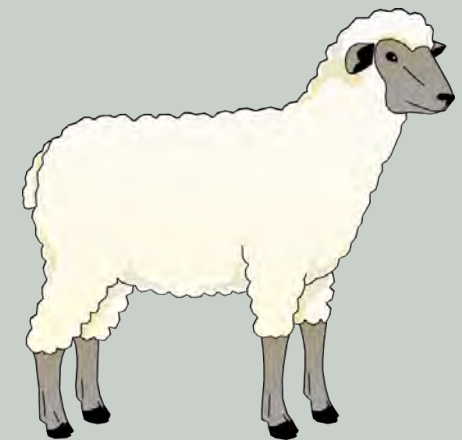
#### The Old Stone Age

All People Lived as Hunter-Gatherers



#### The New Stone Age

Transition in Some Regions to Farming and Herding Lifestyle





# The Neolithic Revolution

Today we shall...

- explore and evaluate the changes that occurred in human lifestyle when some people began to plant crops and herd animals.

**These changes were dramatic and revolutionary.  
Our existence today would be impossible without them.**





# The Neolithic Revolution

## The Beginning of Agriculture

From 13,000 to 10,000 years ago, people in the area that we now call the Middle East began to plant grain and grow crops.





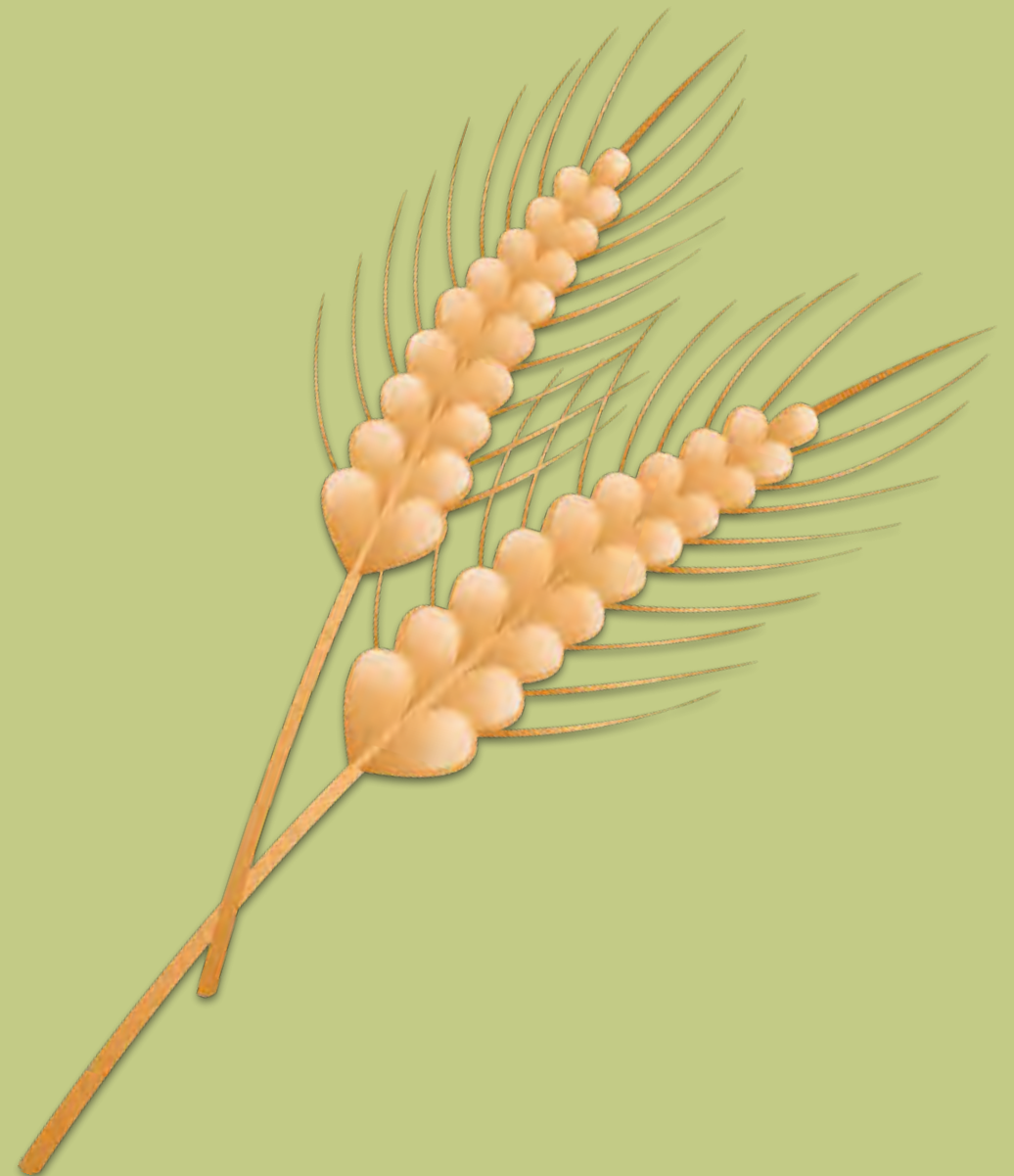
# The Neolithic Revolution

## The Beginning of Agriculture

**Agriculture:** farming, cropping, growing food

Actually, this was literally  
a  
ground-breaking time in  
human history.

How do you think this  
might have affected the  
human way of life?





# The Beginning of Agriculture

How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

## Hints to Help You Consider This Question



Grain does not decay. It can be stored for decades.



When you produce food, you have more of it than when you just wait for it to grow.



Farming requires a number of people to work steadily in one place.



# The Beginning of Agriculture

How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

**Your thought**

**Your partner's  
thought**

**Shared Class Ideas**





# How do you think that the beginning of cropping might have affected the human way of life?

## My Suggestions

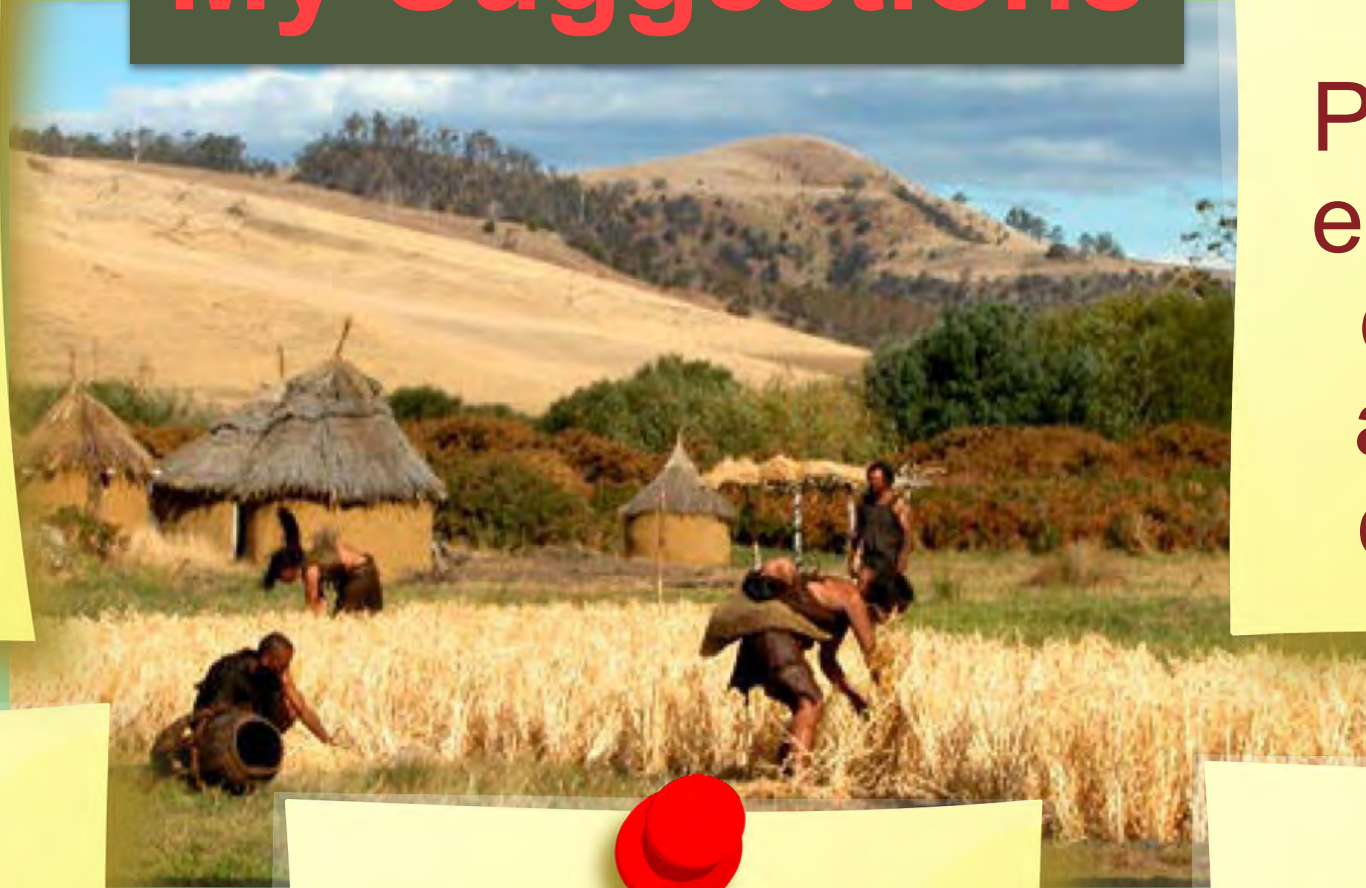
People could plan for the future, rather than living from day to day.

Problems with environmental degradation and disease could occur.

Gradually people could rely less and less on the nomadic lifestyle.

The same area of land could support a much denser population.

Villages, towns and even cities could begin to develop.





# The Neolithic Revolution

## The Beginning of Animal Herding

When people began to herd animals, they chose the characteristics they wanted in their breeding animals. This meant, for example, that they bred goats with smaller horns and gentler personalities. This process of tampering with evolution is called **domestication**.



Ibex - wild goat



Domesticated goat



# The Neolithic Revolution

## The Beginning of Animal Domestication for Farming

Domesticated sheep



Domesticated goat



Sheep and goats were to become the first farm animals, in around 10,000 BC. They could provide all kinds of products that were useful to the first farmers.

Can you suggest some?



Of course, one animal had already been domesticated, at least 3,000 years earlier.



**Dog domestication - about 13,000 years ago**  
This is when dogs began to become our best friends.  
Originally they were wolves.



# Changes Involve Both Advantages and Disadvantages

---

strength

weakness



plus



minus



positive



negative



benefit

downside





# To Analyse a Change, Decision or Plan: Carry Out a SWOT Analysis

## **S** Strength

What are clear advantages or benefits of the change?

## **W** Weakness

What are clear disadvantages or downsides of the change?

## **O** Opportunity

What positive options for the future could this change make possible?

## **T** Threat

What potential dangers could develop as a result of this change?



# A Swot Analysis of the Beginning of Farming

## Carry Out a SWOT Analysis

### **S** Strength

**Example:** Greater food security

### **W** Weakness

**Example:** Dependence on rain and other environmental circumstances

### **O** Opportunity

**Example:** People could be freed from daily food production in order to take on other roles, such as those of artists or teachers.

### **T** Threat

**Example:** Exploitation of the environment with potential impacts on the future settlements



# The Impact of the Neolithic Revolution

## Reading from Your Text

Read pages 42-43:

- “The New Stone Age”

This excerpt from your text will give you ideas to add to the SWOT\* matrix on your handout, which can be downloaded at [this link](#).

\*Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats





# Stories from the Stone Age, Part 1



This video is available on YouTube at [this link](#).

- [Notes for Teachers and Extension Work](#)
- **Handout for Students:** [Stories from the Stone Age - Fill the Gaps](#)