

2. PREHISTORY

Pages 22-65

THE FIRST TOOLS (P40)

ACTIVITY: Take the most basic tool you can find. This might be a hammer or a tin-opener. Draw a picture of it, and annotate it. What size is it? What shape? What material is it made from? How much does it weigh? What is it used for? Is it sharp or blunt? How could you improve it? Now take the most advanced tool you can find in your house? Is it your phone? Do the same as for above.

HOW DID WE START SPEAKING (P42)

'Words helped our ancestors discover why things happen.'

Usually we learn words through reading new material or having new conversations. We work out the meaning from the context in which the words are used. But we can also now learn new words from the dictionary.

ACTIVITY: Discover ten new words in a dictionary and use each in a sentence.

ACTIVITY: Use your amazing language skills to tell a story, write instructions, or to write a letter.

ACTIVITY: Learn how to count to ten in a new language. Or how to have a basic conversation.

OUR MISSING COUSINS (P45)

DISCUSS: What does it mean to be human? Hold a philosophical debate with your class or friends. See if one question leads to another. Take cues from the text, such as self-awareness, the ability to learn. Expand on these ideas and see where it leads.

FROM HUNTER-GATHERERS TO FARMERS (P56)

DISCUSS: What are the good and bad things about being a farmer or a hunter-gatherer? Which would you prefer to be?

ACTIVITY: Write a day in the life of a farmer. What jobs do you need to do?



HOW HUMANS SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD (P48)

People who travel rather than stay in one place are called nomads. Are there any nomadic peoples today?

ACTIVITY: Research and find one such people. Imagine you are travelling with them. What would it be like to move about constantly? Write a diary entry, remembering to explore your feelings and thoughts as well as where you are going.

ACTIVITY: You might now live in one place, but it is not unusual for your grandparents or great-grandparents to have been brought up somewhere else.

Find an older family member or close family friend and find out their stories of where they grew up. How is it different from your experience? You may wish to record audio or video of their stories, or draw a picture that explores what they describe.

HOW RELIGION STARTED (P52)

Religion *'helped build a feeling of belonging together and of sharing important ideas'*.

ACTIVITY: Research Stonehenge. Create a poster to show your findings. How was it built? Which tools did they use? What was the sun celebration like? How is Stonehenge used today?

ACTIVITY: Write a poem or song about the sun. Many people have done this before. You may wish to read *Sonnet 33* by William Shakespeare or *The Sun Rising* by John Donne for inspiration. You may wish to listen to *Sun is Shining* by Bob Marley or *Here Comes the Sun* by The Beatles.

DISCUSS: Do you belong to a religion? Which aspect of it gives you a feeling of belonging? What do you like about your religion?

HOW MONEY WAS INVENTED (P59)

DISCUSS: What do we use instead of paper money? If the money we use becomes worthless tomorrow, what would we use? Think about how we value things today? Is there a difference between something's value and how much it costs? What makes someone successful?

From this chapter on prehistory, you should have a really good idea of who you are, where you come from, and what you are like as a person.

