

## Option 2

Pre-historical humanity is generally divided into two parts, as it is in the textbook: the Paleolithic and Neolithic eras. The Paleolithic era, also known as the Old Stone Age, was characterized by a hunting and gathering, nomadic lifestyle. Important stages within the Old Stone Age was the making of stone tools. The next important phase, thought to be as far back in history as 164,000 years ago, was the controlling of fire by early hominids. They used this as part of their tool creation. At the end of the Paleolithic era, a new phase of development occurred as populations expanded as Homo sapiens were able to create new types of tools that were more specialized and from materials like bone and antler. This is probably most characterized by the famous cave paintings made by Paleolithic people. However, in the period around 11,000 B.C.E., had a huge development into the Neolithic era. Climate warming allowed humans to settle in new, fertile areas and cultivate previously wild plants that needed to be gathered. Along with the domestication of animals which allowed a stable food source instead of following a migrating herd of animals, humans were able to develop stable societies. This period was also characterized by the creation of stratified social structures and an increase in inequality. Increased food and the ability to have more leisure due to a sedentary lifestyle allowed the fertility rate to rise, and in about 3000 years populations outnumbered the food supply that could be gathered. New technologies like preserving and storing grain and plowing with the help of domesticated animals created food surpluses. This led into the phase of early towns, centered around food storage, which had a stratified social structure where the citizenry was administered by officials, often religious, and protected as warfare increased as populations began to interact. Women also became increasingly unequal in this period. This led into a new phase of towns becoming larger settlements and undertaking large building projects. These settlements were characterized by strict social classes and a dependence on the seasons and farming, not unlike the Paleolithic dependence on following herds and searching for wild plants. However, farming especially with new technologies allowed for increasing surplus, which allowed some people to not farm and instead specialize. The later Neolithic period was the beginning of specialization, with some people learning a certain trade and becoming artisans. These settlements were now able to trade with each other. The development of pre-historical humanity, divided into the Old and New Stone Ages, was characterized by increasing control over the environment and an increase in social structure, specifically sparked by the Agricultural Revolution and domestication of animals resulting in food surplus.