

# UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION

## SOCIAL STUDIES

**Dear Parents and Guardians,**

We are officially starting our first content unit, which will take us to Africa. This unit we will be learning one version of the origin of humans, which is the version the state of Tennessee has decided on. Students will have the opportunity to be looking at some of the oldest artifacts ever discovered including bones, pottery, arrows, and many more! As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Ms. Durgin



**Questions to Ask:**

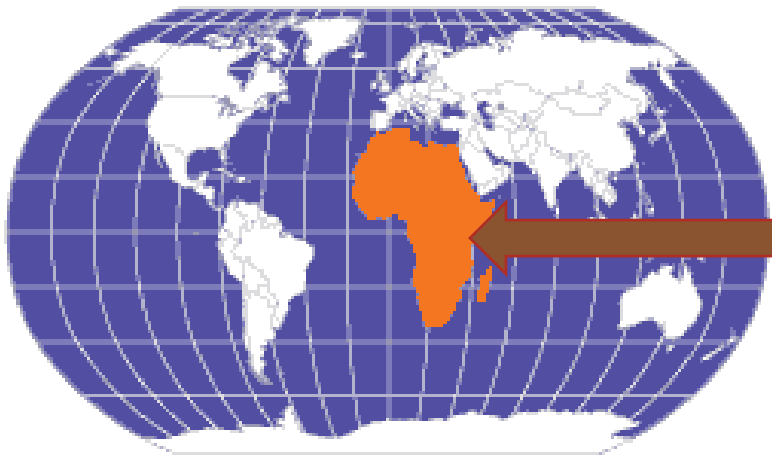
**Where are the first humans thought to originate from?**

**What did these humans worship?**

**What did these humans invent?**

**Why were these humans considered nomads?**

Ms. Durgin  
mdurgin@memphisrise.org  
781-771-8236



**Fossils** are hardened remains or imprints of living things that existed long ago. The oldest fossils were found in **Africa**.

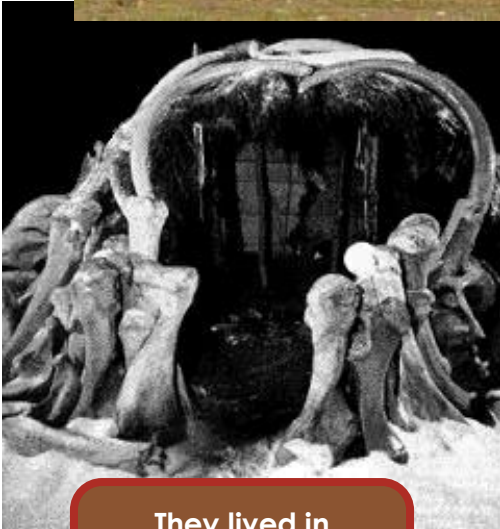


Early African civilizations were hunter-gatherers. The men were responsible for the hunting, and the women were responsible for the gathering. They were also nomads, which means they traveled from place to place in search of food.



### Discovering the Past

- 1955 A.D.** — **1959** Human fossils found at Olduvai
- 1974** "Lucy" discovered in Ethiopia
- 1980 A.D.** — **1990s** Human fossils dated 4.4 million years discovered
- 2005 A.D.** — **2001** Fossil dated nearly 7 million years discovered in Chad




They lived in temporary homes, like huts.



They made weapons out of stones in order to hunt animals. They also drew paintings on cave walls of things that were important to them.

This is the first unit students will be introduced to the graphic organizer known as G.R.A.P.E.S. I will be helping students complete their first one, but in the future students will be responsible for completing their own. This is what it will look like:

G.R.A.P.E.S.				
Directions: Look through your notes and complete the parts that you are able to.				
Word	Information to Include	Explain		
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Location</li> <li>Description of the Land</li> <li>Climate</li> </ul>	<p>The first humans are thought to have originated from </p> <p>The first humans eventually migrated to other parts of the world.</p>		
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Montheism/ Polytheism</li> <li>Gods</li> <li>Beliefs/practices</li> <li>Customs</li> </ul>	<p>Animism: The belief that animals and nature had spirits.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first humans worshipped animals</li> <li>They drew cave paintings as a way to ask for forgiveness.</li> </ul>		
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Art/music</li> <li>Writing</li> <li>Math/science</li> <li>Literature</li> <li>Inventions</li> </ul>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td> <b>Paleolithic Era</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire</li> <li>Language</li> <li>Better Tools</li> </ul> </td> <td> <b>Neolithic Era</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture (farming)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invention of Agriculture</li> <li>Food Surplus</li> <li>Population Increase</li> </ol> </li> <li>Domestication (controlling animals and plants)</li> <li>Metallurgy</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<b>Paleolithic Era</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fire</li> <li>Language</li> <li>Better Tools</li> </ul>	<b>Neolithic Era</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture (farming)                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invention of Agriculture</li> <li>Food Surplus</li> <li>Population Increase</li> </ol> </li> <li>Domestication (controlling animals and plants)</li> <li>Metallurgy</li> </ul>
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Politics				
Economics				
Social Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roles of men, women and children</li> </ul>	<p><b>Hunter-Gatherer:</b> The men were responsible for hunting and the women were responsible for gathering. They were nomadic (moved from place to place) so they had temporary homes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men: Hunted animals.</li> <li>Women: Gathered nuts, berries, and plants. Also took care of children.</li> </ul>		