**HUNTING AND GATHERING SOCIETIES**

Hunter/gatherer refers to how a group of people get their food. They find it growing wild or hunt or fish for it.  They do not grow any food. Another name for a hunter/gatherer is a nomad.

As early humans left Africa and spread throughout the globe, they found fruits and nuts that were edible. They gathered seeds and roots. They became very good at catching fish.

Fishing was done using spears, bow and arrow, nets, and even fish hooks.

As time went on, some early humans built canoes and rafts to go out into deeper water to catch larger fish.

They became good hunters. Hunters mostly went after herd animals such as deer, wooly mammoth, and tigers! They had bows and stone tipped arrows, stone spears, stone knives and axes, and they dug pits to catch animals.

Over time, early man learned how to smoke and preserve meat to help feed themselves during the long cold winters. During the summer months, they would follow the herds and hunt.  During the winter they returned to their winter camps.

**INVENTING TOOLS**

Early man did not have sharp claws or strong sharp teeth. He was not larger or stronger than other animals. He could not run like deer or antelope. So how did early man survive?

Early man invented and created stone and bone weapons and tools. With these tools, early man could kill and trap those animals he needed for food. With stone axes and spears, he could defend against those animals that thought he might be food. Since many of the tools he created were made out of stone, **this is called the Stone Age**.

The Stone Age is considered to have begun about two million years ago, and ended sometime about ten thousand years ago.

During the Stone Age, people were mostly vegetarian, eating fruits, nuts, berries and occasionally fish and animals they hunted. They were not great hunters due to the poor construction of their spears and axes, but they did get the job done.

Man did use fire and made campfires, but these were probably started by finding something that was already burning from a lightning strike.

Campfires were very useful since fire keeps most animals away, so a campfire would be watched carefully to keep it going. Some people refer to these men as cave men. This is probably not true. Since they had to move constantly to find food to eat, they could not settle down in one place. Caves are also home to some very mean predators such as bears and lions so man probably avoided caves.

**DIFFERENT ROLES FOR MEN AND WOMEN**  
  
Men and women performed different tasks within the group.

* Men—not women—hunted large animals. They often had to search far from their camp. Men had to learn how animals behaved and how to hunt them. They had to develop tracking methods. At first, men used clubs or drove the animals off cliffs to kill them. Over time, however, Paleolithic people developed tools and weapons to help them hunt. The traps and spears they made increased their chances of killing their prey.
* Women stayed close to the camp, which was often located near a stream or other body of water. They looked after the children and searched nearby woods and meadows for berries, nuts, and grains. Everyone worked to find food, because it was the key to the group's survival.

Some scientists believe that an equal relationship existed between men and women. It is likely that both made decisions that affected the group.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How did Hunter-Gathers get their name?

2. What is another word for Hunter-gatherer?

3. Why was it necessary for H-G tribes to constantly move?

4. What are some animals many used to hunt during this time?

5. What did man do that allowed him to eat meat over the winter?

6. How did “The Stone Age” get its name?

7. What were some advantages (uses) for fire?

8. Why is it not correct to call these people “cave men?”

9. What role did men play in society?

10. What role did women plan in society?