Chapter 1

THE FIRST HUMANS
AND THE PALEOLITHIC ERA

STARTING ROUGHLY 6 TO 7 MILLION YEARS AGO
The study of prehistory relies on **Archeology** and two groups of people:

**Archeologists** are scientists who study objects made by humans, called **artifacts**, to better understand human activity. Artifacts can be tools, instruments, or anything made by humans in past civilizations.

**Anthropologists** are scientists who also study artifacts but are more interested in the cultural aspects of human society:

- what people in a particular culture wore
- what they ate
- how they learned and created the customs they followed
- how they developed languages

All the things happening now—the presidents of today, the global issues, climate change, cultural change, the sort of lives we lead—will be considered part of history someday. Maybe someone will study our “artifacts” and culture. But before that happens, let’s go back to the beginning—to the very first humans.
WHERE FIRST HUMANS LIVED

- HOMO HABILIS
- HOMO ERECTUS
- HOMO SAPIENS
- HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS

MODERN-DAY
EUROPE

MODERN-DAY
ASIA

MODERN-DAY
AFRICA

MODERN-DAY
AUSTRALIA

**BCE** = BEFORE the COMMON ERA
(or before the year was 1)

**CE** = the COMMON ERA
(or the year 1 and after)

1000 BCE  500 BCE  1 CE  500 CE  1000 CE

BCE dates sorta work like negative numbers.
For example, 1000 BCE is further in the past than 500 BCE.