Chapter 1: The Stone Age
STONE AGE:

1. PALEOLITHIC 2,500,000 - 8,000 BCE
   • 195,000 – Anatomically modern humans
   • 40-35,000 – First works of art

2. Mesolithic (in Europe) c. 8000 – 2700 BCE

3. NEOLITHIC 8,000-3000 BCE – Near East
               4,000-1500 BCE – Europe

Paleo = old (Greek)
Mesos = middle
Neo = new
Lithos = stone
Cutting and punching tools. 24,000 BCE. Dordogne. France. Silex
Comparison of Axes
T: Paleolithic, 400,000 BCE. France. B: Neolithic, 4000 BCE. France
Century = 100 years
Millennium = 1000 years
CE = Common Era (AD)
BCE = Before Common Era (BC)
ca. = circa = about
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Century</th>
<th>Millennium</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1542 CE</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} c.</td>
<td>2nd mill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>583 BCE</td>
<td>6\textsuperscript{th} c. BCE</td>
<td>1\textsuperscript{st} mill. BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1013 CE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5700 BCE</td>
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<td>100 CE</td>
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<td>2006 CE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>1750 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2306 BCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>258 CE</td>
<td>Early 7\textsuperscript{th} c. BCE</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Late 1\textsuperscript{st} mill CE</td>
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Is this a work of art?

Waterworn pebble resembling a human face, from Makapansgat, South Africa, ca. 3,000,000 BCE. Reddish brown jasperite, approx. 2 3/8” wide.
Red ochre stone from Blombos Cave, South Africa (crayon with tally marks?), 75,000 BCE

Shell Beads from Blombos Cave. Use-wear, indicates the shells having being strung and worn.
Paleolithic (Representational) Art

C. 40,000-8000 BCE
Paleolithic Sculpture
Woolly Mammoth Figurine from Germany.

3.7 cm (1.5 inch) long. 35,000 BCE

(It is believed to be the oldest ivory carving ever found.)

40-35,000 BCE – first works of art

Representation: the presenting again – in different and substitute form – of something observed.
Bison with turned head, fragmentary spearthrower, from La Madeleine, Dordogne, France, ca. 12,000 BCE. Reindeer horn. 4” long
Figure 14.6
The spear-thrower, or atlatl, lengthens the arm and permits the spear to be thrown with more force over a longer distance. [Figure courtesy of Richard Klein.]
**Freestanding Sculpture**

A type of sculpture that is surrounded on all sides by space. Also called sculpture in-the-round.

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**Venus of Willendorf**

from Willendorf
Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000 BCE
Limestone, approx. 4 1/4” high
**Relief:** In sculpture, figures projecting from a background of which they are part. The degree of relief is designated high, low or sunken.

**Woman holding a bison horn**
from Laussel, Dordogne, France, ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted limestone 1’ 6” high
The **cornucopia**, also known as the **Horn of Plenty**, is a symbol of food and plenty.

In Greek mythology, Amalthea raised Zeus on the milk of a goat. In return Zeus gave Amalthea the goat's horn. It had the power to give to the person in possession of it whatever he or she wished for.

**Woman holding a bison horn**
from Laussel, Dordogne, France, 
ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted limestone 1’ 6” high
Female relief. Dordogne, France c. 25000 BCE. Limestone

Woman holding a bison horn
from Laussel, Dordogne, France, ca. 25,000–20,000 BCE. Painted limestone 1’ 6” high

Venus of Willendorf
from Willendorf, Austria, ca. 28,000–25,000 BCE Limestone, approx. 4 1/4” high
Woman from Ostrava

Petrkovic, Czech Republic

C. 23,000 BCE. Hematite,

Height 1 ¾” (4.6 cm)
Radiocarbon dating:
The determination of the approximate age of an organic object by measuring the amount of carbon 14 it contains.

The technique is most accurate for material no more than 50,000 years old.

Human with feline head,
from Hohlenstein-Stadel,
Germany, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE Mammoth ivory, 11 5/8” high.
Upper-Paleolithic Burin
(chisel-like tool)
Paleolithic Painting
Animal facing left, from the Apollo 11 Cave, Namibia, ca. 23,000 BCE. Charcoal on stone, approx. 5” X 4 1/4”
Paleolithic Cave Paintings

Paints were manufactured from combinations of minerals, ochres, burnt bone meal and charcoal mixed into mediums of water, blood, animal fats and tree saps.
Aurochs (extinct wild oxen), horses, and rhinoceroses, wall painting in Chauvet Cave, Vallon-Pont-d’Arc, Ardèche, France, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE. Approx. half life-size.
Bison. Altamira cave, Santander, Spain
ca. 12,000–11,000 BCE
Paint on limestone

1879: Marcelino Sautuola discovered the paintings in Altamira
"Every sacred place is where Eternity shines through Time."

Joseph Campbell

Bison. Altamira cave, Santander, Spain. ca. 12,000–11,000 BCE. Paint on limestone
**Bison.** Altamira cave  
Santander, Spain  
ca. 12,000–11,000 BCE  
Each bison approx. 5’ long
Composite View/Twisted Perspective
A convention of representation in which part of a figure is shown in profile and another part of the same figure is shown frontally.

Bison. Detail of a painted ceiling in the Altamira cave. Copy. Santander, Spain. 12,000–11,000 BCE (Magdalenian Culture)
Aurochs (extinct wild oxen), horses, and rhinoceroses, wall painting in Chauvet Cave, Vallon-Pont-d’Arc, Ardèche, France, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE. Approx. half life-size.

Bison. Detail of a painted ceiling in the Altamira cave. Copy. Santander, Spain. 12,000–11,000 BCE (Magdalenian Culture)
Spotted horses and negative hand imprints

wall painting in the cave at Pech-Merle, Lot, France, ca. 22,000 BCE. 11’ 2” long.
Cro-Magnon artists used three techniques:
1. Spraying
2. Drawing with fingers or blocks of ocher
3. Daubing with paintbrush made of hair or moss.

Michel Lorblanchet, a cave archeologist, demonstrating a prehistoric painting technique.

It took him only 32 hours to complete the horses, his speed suggesting that a single artist created the original.
Abstract/Non-representational art: Compositions which do not rely on naturalistic representation.

**Signs.** Lascaux. Dordogne, France
ca. 15,000–13,000 BCE
Ground line: a painted or carved baseline on which figures appear to stand in paintings and reliefs.

Hall of the Bulls, Lascaux, Dordogne, France ca. 15,000–13,000 BCE. Largest bull approx. 11’ 6” long
T. “Chinese horse.”
Lascaux. Dordogne France
15,000-10,000 BCE
(Magdalenian Culture)

B. Living Horse
Shaman and Wounded Bison (?). Lascaux. Dordogne. France 
15000-13000 BCE. Natural pigments on Limestone
Shaman and Wounded Bison
Lascaux. Dordogne. France
15000-13000 BCE. Natural pigments on Limestone
Masked Dancing Shaman. Dordogne. France. 15,000-10,000 BCE.
Human with feline head, from Hohlenstein-Stadel, Germany, ca. 30,000–28,000 BCE Mammoth ivory, 11 5/8” high.

Masked Dancing Shaman. Dordogne. France. 15,000-10,000 BCE.
L. Masked Dancing Shaman. Copy. Dordogne. France. 15,000-10,000 BCE
R. Mandan Bull Dance by George Catlin. 1832. Banks of Missouri River. USA
Mandan Bull Dance. Banks of Missouri River. USA. George Catlin. 1832
Paleolithic Bone Huts
Paleolithic Dwelling. Reconstruction. Mezhirich. Ukraine
18,000-17,000 BCE. Mammoth bones
“bone hut” sites made of Mammoth bones have been found in the Czech Republic, Poland and Ukraine.
Woolly mammoths (along with other mammals such as saber-toothed cats), went extinct as warming weather reduced their food sources.

The last glacial period ended about 10,000 years ago.
Why do you think that images of men were less prevalent in Paleolithic art than those of animals and women?

What purposes may Paleolithic cave paintings have served? Why are they generally not found in the inhabited portions of the caves in which they're found?