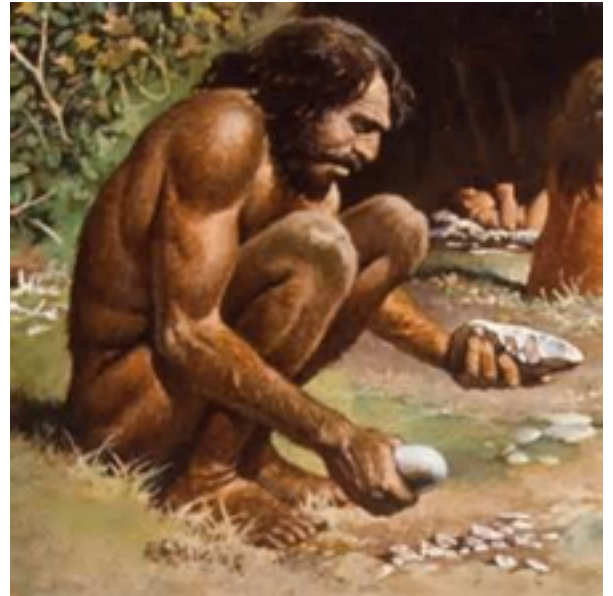


Early Humans and Observations about their Environment

Early humans were naturalists. They were the first humans to observe their environments and they were the first scientists. They learned about their environment by using their 5 senses to gather information that surrounded them on a daily basis. These senses included their sight, hearing, touch, taste and smell.



Information about plants, animals, natural landforms, the climate, and natural resources in the environment was gathered through the senses. This information was important because it helped them to meet their basic needs for survival and adapt to different environments. Adapting to new environments allowed the early humans to survive successfully and leave viable offspring. If they did not adapt successfully, they could have faced extinction like the Neanderthals.



Early humans knew where key natural resources were located and how to use them in different ways. They were able to modify and change the purpose and use of a natural resource to meet their needs. In this activity, you will use your senses to survey your environment (at home, at school, etc). Write down your observations for each of the following:



Sight: What do you see?

Smell: What do you smell?

Touch: What do you feel?

Hearing: What do you hear?

Imagine you are an early human living in this area 500 years ago. Write down what your observations would have been for each of the following:

Sight: What would they see?

Smell: What would they smell?

Touch: What would they feel?

Hearing: What would they hear?

Compare your observations of the present to the observations of the past. What is different about the observations? Explain.

Explain how the area that you live in now has changed from what it may have been like in the past. What is different now?

What adaptations or changes did people make in order to live the lifestyle we have today? Why is this important?

Predict what this area will be like in another 500 years. How will the people of today need to adapt for the the future?