

New Environments

Mini-Lesson—cut this out and glue to the right hand page of your notebook.

In order to migrate the vast distances that prehistoric people achieved, they had to be able to adapt. Adaptation is being able to acclimate or get used to the surrounding environment. People went through a number of climates including European countryside (rolling hills with trees and bushes and grass), temperate deciduous (trees that lose their leaves) forest, coniferous (trees that have cones) forest, the steppes (Asian grasslands), and tundra and glacial ice (in other words, very cold). Yet, people started out in Africa with a climate of tropical savanna. They originate in a moist and warm climate, which requires minimal clothing but lots of animals, big and small. Lots of vegetation would have been available as well. People would have used what was at hand to survive. Plant materials would have been used for making mats, some sort of roof over poles, and people may have woven the grasses to make clothes. While migrating they would encounter new **megafauna** (really large animals like cave lions, cave bears, woolly mammoths, giant ground sloths, and saber-toothed cats to name a few).

So, how did people adapt to winters in temperate and polar regions? Especially knowing they would face glaciers and ice when crossing the **land bridge**, which is an exposed landform connecting two land masses, in Asia to North America, how did people change what they had done in the past to live in new climates? What made the humans living during this time capable of adapting to new climates? Three things, our brain, our determination to survive, and our ability to be innovative. We are, as a species, extremely creative. Every experience is one we can learn from and we tuck that away in our memory to pull out the next time a piece of information is useful. We apply our knowledge in unique ways in various situations, not only situations that are the same as the one in which the new information was acquired.

One adaptation was learning that there were certain kinds of stones that had sharp edges could be used as a cutting tool. Then people learned that some stones could be intentionally shaped, from this came more efficient knife blades and axe heads. Then we discovered metal, and then we learned how to melt and shape metal. You can see where this is leading. We keep at it, we make discoveries and then improvements.

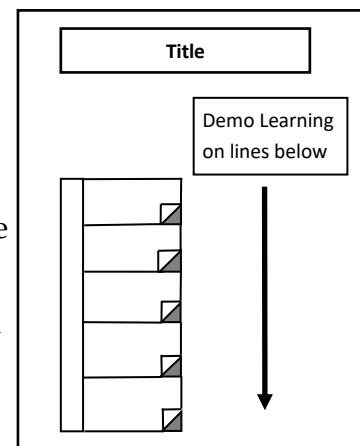
Directions to complete left hand notebook page.

Step 1—Color the parts that need it. (Title, pictures, flaps, lined circle, and background of “demonstrate your learning”).

Step 2—Once everything is colored cut out all the pieces. Pay attention to the piece with flaps. Cut out the perimeter, then cut on the line for each flap up to the bar with the title but not through it. Put glue on the back of the bar only, so the flaps don't stick. Place the bar with flaps as shown.

Step 3—Take the pictures and glue them under the flaps. Some have more than one picture.

Step 4—Glue the “Demonstrate your Learning title on the other side of the page as shown. Then write your answers next to the flap on the right.



Demonstrate your learning.

Look at each picture, and think about where early humans came from and think about what humans had to do to adapt to that and environment. Then list your ideas next to the flap.