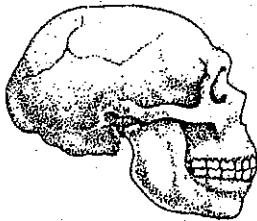


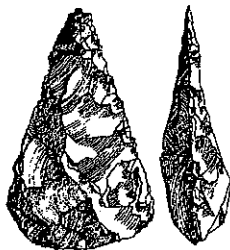
2 Away with Time

Thinkers

About 50,000 years ago, two kinds of upright creatures walked the earth. Both were part of a species known as *Homo Sapiens*, which means "thinking man." Some were Neanderthals; some were *Homo sapiens sapiens*. The Neanderthals had husky builds and big brains. About 35,000 years ago, Neanderthals disappeared. We don't know why. The other creatures were our ancestors.



This Neanderthal skull shows that Neanderthals had flatter heads and squarer chins than *Homo sapiens sapiens*—people like us.



Early humans made these axes by chipping at flints with a stone.

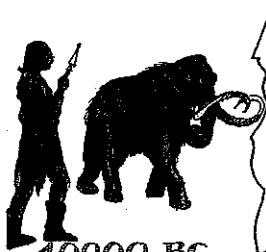
Are you ready? You're about to study the history of US—the people of the United States. You'll need to use your imagination. You can start by climbing into our sturdy time-and-space capsule. Hold on tight; you're going back to the Age of Stone and Ice. You're going to northern Asia, to a place called Siberia.

When you get out of the capsule you might shiver a bit; it is cold here in Siberia. But you have nice warm clothing. Because of that astounding invention—the needle made of bone—people can wear clothes that fit their bodies. Do you see that man and woman over there, sitting near the fire? They are your mother and father.

They are good parents, and you live happily in a fine round hut dug into the ground and built of interlocking mammoth bones, animal hides, and earth.

Actually, you have two homes: a winter place and a summer home. You and your family are hunters, so you follow the animals to summer and winter grazing lands. You camp out when you make those journeys.

If people in the 21st century could see you they would be surprised. You look a bit like some East Asians and Native Americans



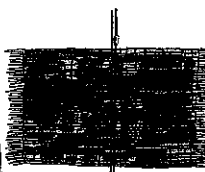
40000 BC

ADD
FOUR FEET
HERE!

35,000 years



BEGIN FARMING • BEGIN WEAVING



FIRST
POTTERY



DOGS I

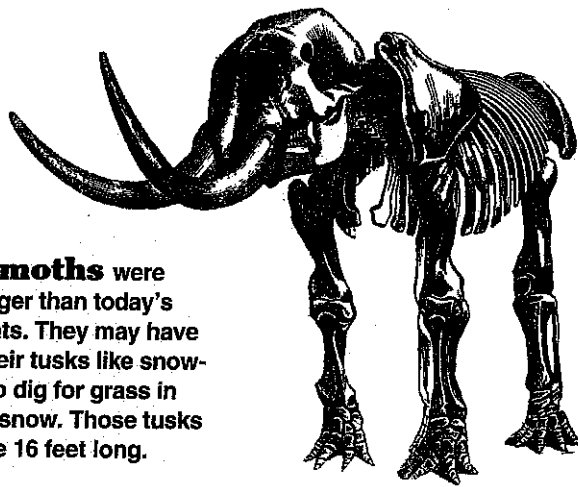
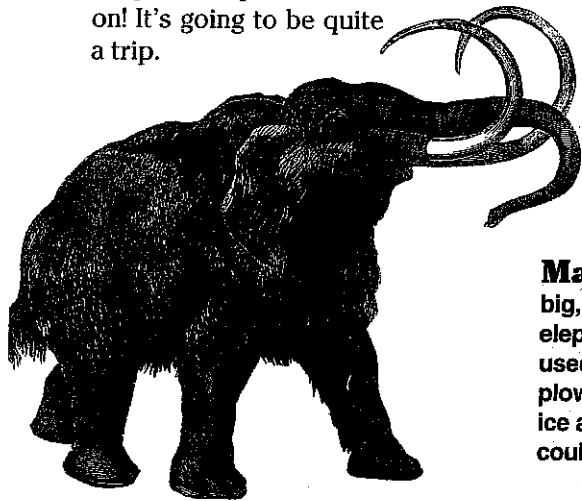
that they know. You wear clothes of leather—boots that go over the knee, a shirt, and pants. If you are a girl you have a cape with a hood. Your mother weaves plant fibers and uses them to make baskets and nets for hunting small game like hare and marmots. You carve small bird figures from a piece of a mammoth's ivory tusk; sometimes you etch designs in the ivory. You even play a musical instrument—a flute—which your father made from a piece of bone.

Most of the tools you make are of stone. (That is why this long-ago time is called the Stone Age. Later, when people discover metals and how to use them, there will be an Iron Age and a Bronze Age.) You use stones to make spearheads and axes, and you use hollowed-out stones for cooking.

A long time ago, someone discovered fire. Lightning may have hit a tree and started a forest fire. The fire cooked animals and made people warm, and everyone realized how valuable it was. Your parents make a spark of fire by striking stones together. Fire has allowed you to travel north, to this cold region, to follow the big animals—like mammoths, mastodons, camels, and stag-moose.

Still, finding food isn't easy in northern Asia; sometimes you go hungry. But don't worry, things will get better. Much better. You're on your way to America. Hold on! It's going to be quite a trip.

No one knows when the first dogs were domesticated, but bones from 14,000 years ago show that people had dogs as companions (and perhaps as a food supply).



Mammoths were big, bigger than today's elephants. They may have used their tusks like snow-plows to dig for grass in ice and snow. Those tusks could be 16 feet long.

