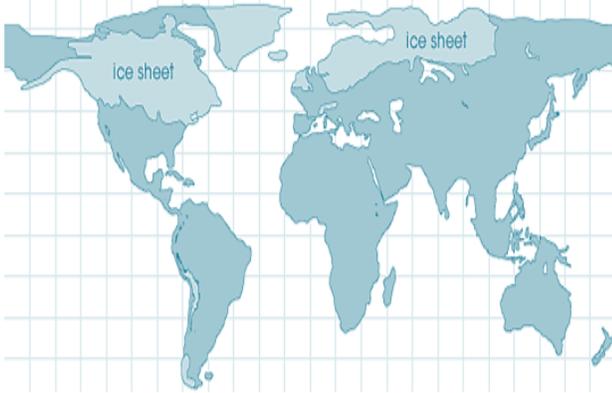


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE OLD STONE AGE: A WORLD OF ICE

People alive during the Old Stone Age lived through what is known as the Ice Ages. That was a time when the climate drastically changed in many parts of the world. Temperatures became much colder. Heavy snows fell and glaciers, or large sheets of ice, formed at the North and South poles.

The glaciers slowly spread, covering huge areas of the earth. It wasn't for thousands of years before the climate became warmer and glaciers melted, retreating back to the poles.



Scientists believe there were four different Ice Ages during the Old Stone Age. Look at the map at the top of the page.

## PEOPLE MOVE TO WARMER LANDS

Life was hard for people during the Ice Ages. Many people living in cold climates died because of the freezing temperatures. Many others died of starvation when the cold killed the plants and animals that were their food.

Some people adapted to the cold weather by living in caves, using fire for warmth, and wearing animal skins and furs.

Many other people migrated to warmer lands. People migrated to Africa, southern Asia, and Southern Europe. Near the end of the last Ice Age, people moved to two lands where people had never lived before—Australia and America.

## THE NEW STONE AGE

During the Old Stone Age, people hunted and gathered their food. Then, about 11,000 years ago, people made a great discovery: They learned to produce their own food. People began to grow plants and raise animals for food. That was the beginning of farming.

The shift from food gathering to food producing brought great changes to people's lives. Scientists call this period of great change the New Stone Age.

## FARMERS AND HERDERS

Historians believe that agriculture began in the ancient Middle East. The warm climate and fertile soil of the Middle East made it a good place for farming.

Scientists can only guess how farming began. One theory is a gatherer noticed that plants grew where wild grains had been spilled by accident. The gatherer tried planting seeds from grains to see what would happen and farming was born.

Farmers in the Middle East began to plant and harvest, (gather) grains, such as wheat and barley. Later, people in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas also learned to farm.

## SOME HUNTERS BECOME HERDERS

At about the same time that people learned to farm, they also learned to domesticate, or tame, animals. Again, the people of the Middle East were probably the first to domesticate animals. They domesticated wild sheep and goats. Eventually, some people who were once hunters became herders. (Herders are people who care for large herds of animals.) Hunters could never be sure of finding game during a hunt, but herding provided people with a steady supply of meat and hides.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# THE OLD STONE AGE: A WORLD OF ICE

**Directions:** *After reading the article, answer the following questions in complete sentences.*

1. What were the Ice Ages?
2. How did some people adapt to the colder weather?
3. Why did people migrate to Australia and America?
4. Where did farming begin?
5. How did farming change the way people lived?
6. What new jobs developed in farm villages?
7. What discoveries brought an end to the Stone Age?
8. How might farming have begun?
9. Why did many people who were once hunters become herders?