

Events in Prehistory: Dates and Event Cards—Key

8.1.2
e

Remind students that prehistory dates are approximate and theoretical.	
2,000,000 years BCE	First evidence of <i>Homo habilis</i> (skillful humans) in Africa: they stood upright, had small brains, and used their hands to make tools for survival.
1,500,000 years BCE	First evidence of <i>Homo erectus</i> (upright humans) in Africa: they were taller humans with bigger brains and better tools, and lived in small hunter-gatherer societies.
1,000,000 BCE	First evidence of humans migrating from Africa to Europe and Asia
700,000 BCE	First evidence of humans using fire for survival
250,000 BCE	Beginning of evidence of <i>Homo sapiens</i> (thinking humans) who looked similar to modern humans: they used spoken language, adapted to colder climates, and had art and religion. Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons were both <i>Homo sapiens</i> .
13,000 BCE	First evidence of humans migrating to the Americas
10,000 BCE	First evidence of agriculture and the development of agrarian societies
3500 BCE	First evidence of written language

Additional markers that may be added to the prehistory span of the wall	
About 2.5 million BCE to 10,000 BCE	Old Stone Age (Paleolithic age): there are small hunter-gatherer societies that used stone tools (pre-agriculture; there are also long periods of Ice Ages during this time).
About 250,000 BCE	Neanderthals appear in Europe (evidence of burial of the dead and religious beliefs).
About 100,000 BCE	Cro-magnons appear in North Africa, Asia, and Europe; they were skillful toolmakers and artists. Invention of the axe, first evidence of cave paintings
About 14,000 to 12,000 BCE	End of the last Ice Age: glaciers and ice sheets in Europe, North America, and Asia are receding; climate is warming; more plants are available as food sources.
About 10,000 to 8000 BCE	Beginning of the Neolithic Age (New Stone Age): agriculture begins; better tools are developed, people begin to settle in villages in some areas.
About 8000 BCE	Evidence of first city—Jericho—in Israel
About 6500 BCE	City of Catal Hüyük built in Turkey