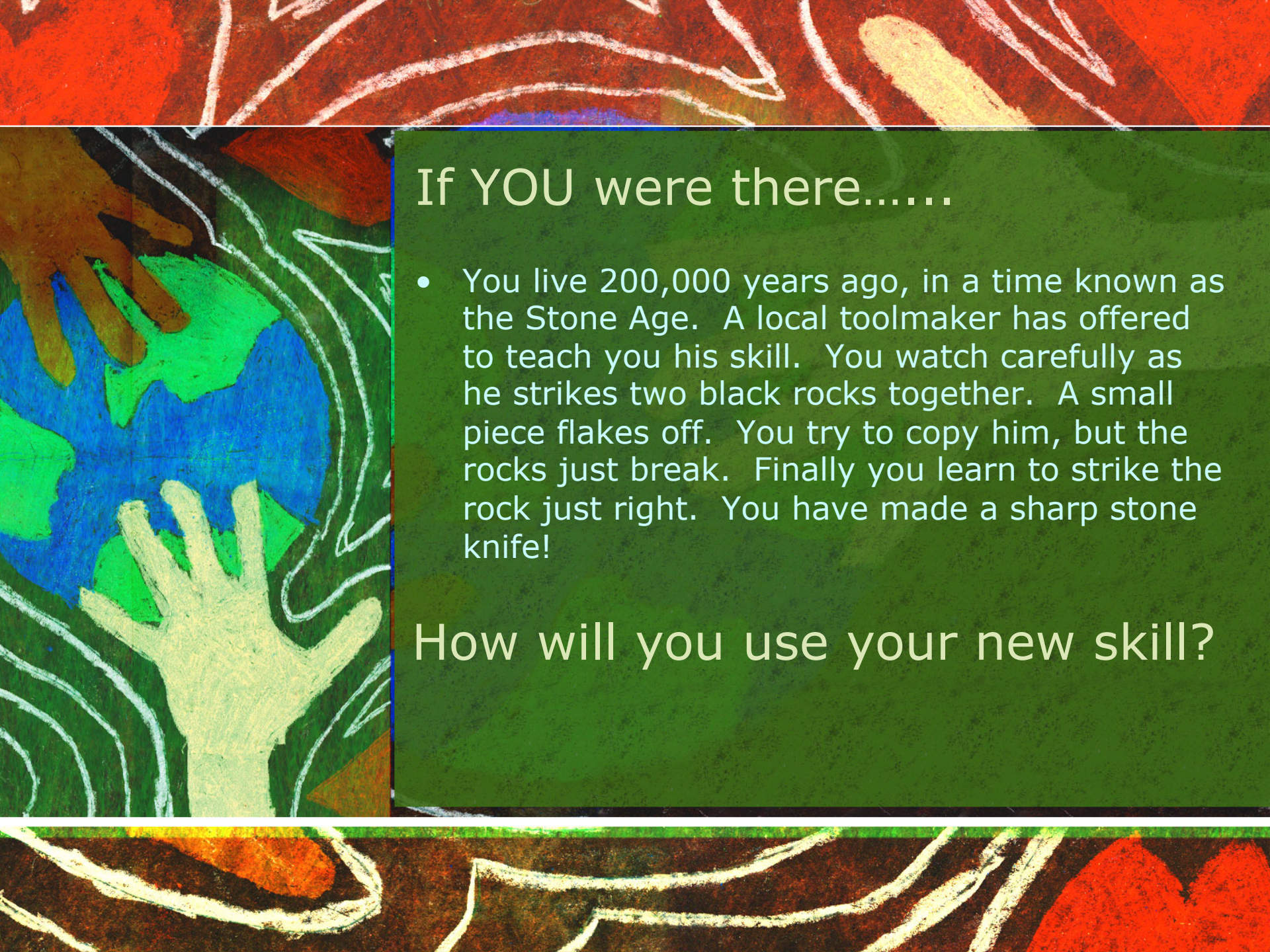




Stone Age



If YOU were there.....

- You live 200,000 years ago, in a time known as the Stone Age. A local toolmaker has offered to teach you his skill. You watch carefully as he strikes two black rocks together. A small piece flakes off. You try to copy him, but the rocks just break. Finally you learn to strike the rock just right. You have made a sharp stone knife!

How will you use your new skill?

Stone Age



**Lithos
(Greek
word for
rock/
stone)**





Stone Age Tools

- The first humans and their ancestors lived during a long period of time called the Stone Age.
- To help in their studies, archaeologists divide the Stone Age into three periods based on the kinds of tools used at the time.
- To archaeologists, a **tool** is any handheld object that has been modified to help a person accomplish a task.
- The first part of the Stone Age is called the **Paleolithic Era**, or Old Stone Age.
- It lasted until about 10,000 years ago. During this time people used stone tools



Paleolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic
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"Old Stone Age" Palaio – Old Lithos - stone		
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Until around 10,000BC		
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Hunting & Gathering		
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Nomadic		
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Cave Art Venus Figurines		
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Early Hominid Sites

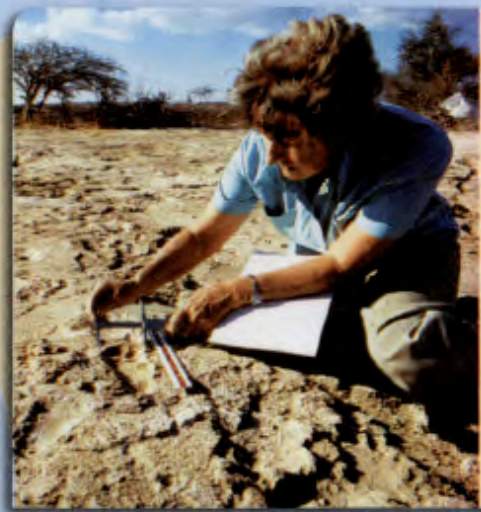


● Australopithecus remains found

0 300 600 Miles
0 300 600 Kilometers



Donald Johanson discovered the bones of Lucy, an early hominid that lived more than 3 million years ago.



Mary Leakey found some of the earliest ancestors of humans in Olduvai Gorge.



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The First Tools

- Scientists have found the oldest tools to be in Tanzania, a country in East Africa.
- These sharpened stones, about the size of an adults fist, are about 2.6 million years old.
- Each stone had been struck with another rock to create a sharp, jagged edge along one side.
- This process left one unsharpened side that could be used as a handle.
- Scientist believe that these first tools were mostly used to process food. The sharp edge could be used to cut, chop, or scrape roots, bones or meat.
- Tools like these, called choppers were used for about 2 million years.

Homo habilis

- Name means “handy man”
- Appeared in Africa about 2.4 million years ago
- Used early stone tools for chopping and scraping
- Brain was about half the size of modern humans



**An early
Stone Age
chopper**





Later Tools

- Over time people learned to make better tools.
- For example, they developed the hand ax. They often made this tool out of a mineral called flint.
- Flint is easy to shape and tools made from it can be very sharp.
- People used hand axes to break tree limbs, to dig, and to cut animal hides.
- People also learned to attach wooden handles to tools.
- By attaching a wooden shaft to a stone point, for example, they invented the spear.
- Because a spear could be thrown, hunters no longer had to stand close to animals they were hunting.



Later Tools

- As a result, people could hunt larger animals.
- Among the animals hunted by Stone Age people were deer, horses, bison and elephant like creatures call mammoths.



Homo erectus

- Name means "upright man"
- Appeared in Africa about 2–1.5 million years ago
- Used early stone tools like the hand ax
- Learned to control fire
- Migrated out of Africa to Asia and Europe

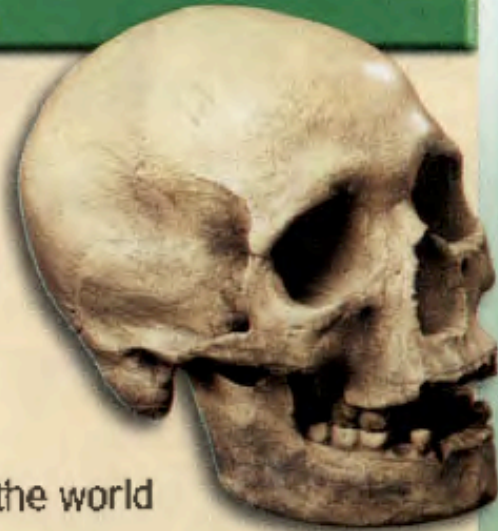


A hand ax



Homo sapiens

- Name means "wise man"
- Appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago
- Migrated around the world
- Same species as modern human beings
- Learned to create fire and use a wide variety of tools
- Developed language



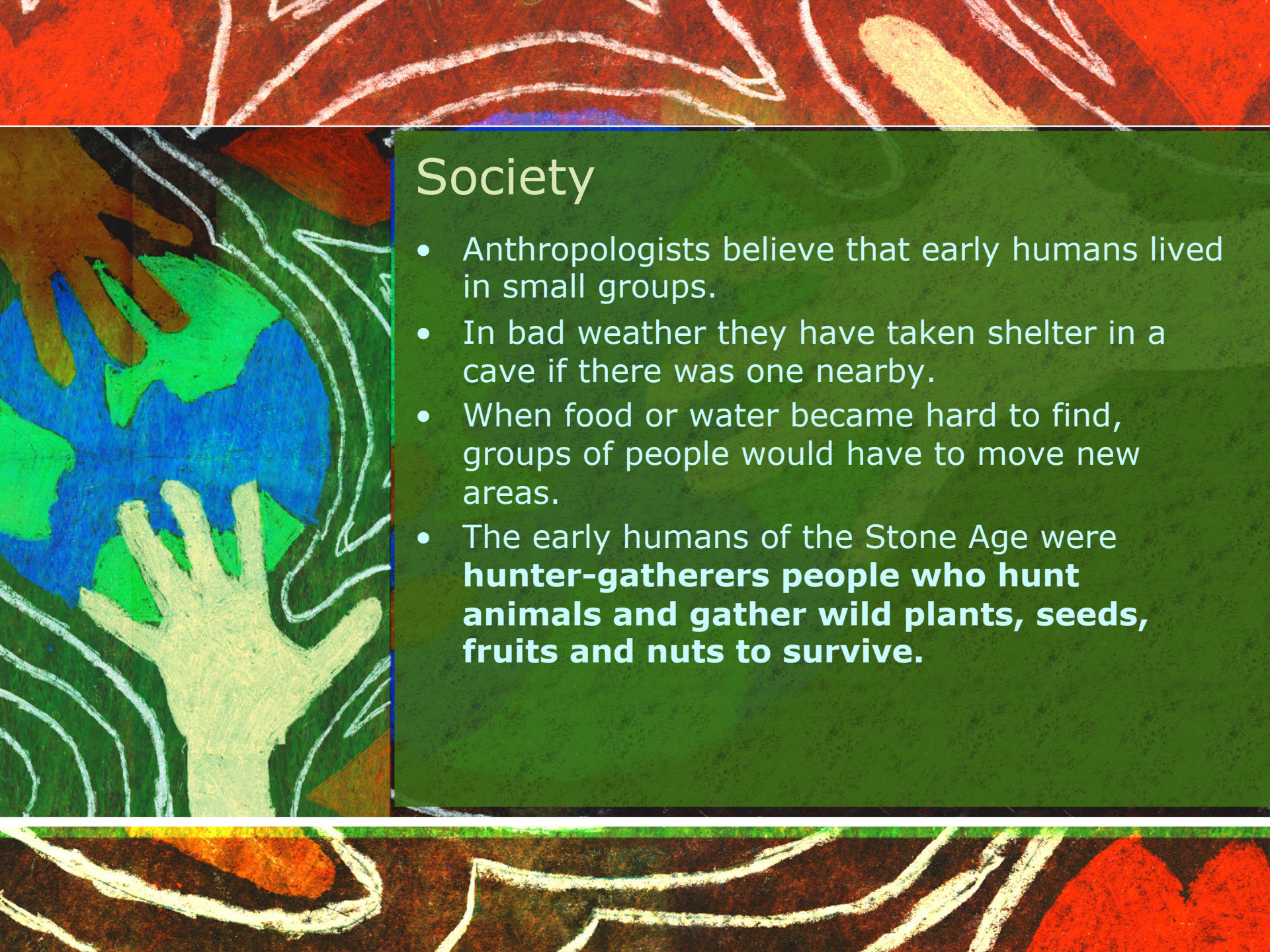
A flint knife





Hunter-gatherer Societies

- As early humans developed tools and new hunting techniques, they formed societies.
- A **society** is a community of people who share a common culture.
- These societies developed cultures with languages, religions and art.



Society

- Anthropologists believe that early humans lived in small groups.
- In bad weather they have taken shelter in a cave if there was one nearby.
- When food or water became hard to find, groups of people would have to move new areas.
- The early humans of the Stone Age were **hunter-gatherers people who hunt animals and gather wild plants, seeds, fruits and nuts to survive.**



Society

- Anthropologists believe that most Stone Age hunters were men.
- They hunted in groups, sometimes chasing entire herds of animals over cliffs.
- This method was both more productive and safer than hunting alone.
- Women in hunter-gatherer societies probably took responsibility for collecting plants to eat.
- They likely stayed near camps and took care of the children.