

LESSON 2

climate
temperature

glacier
adapt

survival
evidence

diet
shelter

theory
migrate

How would your life change if the weather turned very, very cold—and stayed that way? Read this selection to find out how early people reacted to a period known as the Ice Age.

The Ice Age

Changing to Stay Alive

At the end of the Old Stone Age, fire became very important. Earth's **climate**, or long-term weather patterns, was changing. The temperature on Earth was falling. **Temperature** is the measure of how hot or cold something is. Earth became very cold. Glaciers covered parts of North America, Asia, and Europe. A **glacier** is a thick sheet of ice. This Ice Age lasted for about 90,000 years. It ended 10,000 years ago. Early people had to **adapt**, or change the way they did things. The colder temperatures were dangerous to their **survival**, or continuing life.



Early people's survival depended on how well they could adapt to the change in climate.

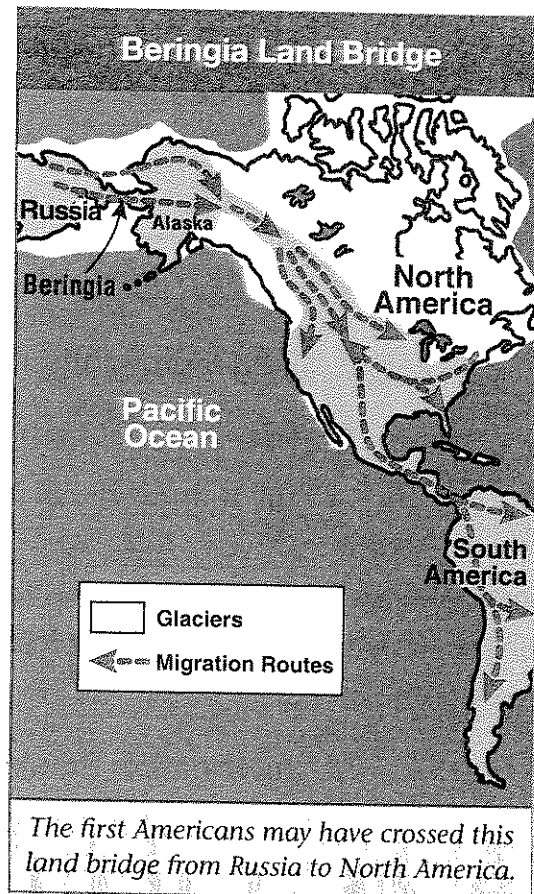


How did early people adapt to the Ice Age? Scientists have found evidence to answer this question. **Evidence** is information that proves something happened. Some people changed their **diet**, or the food people eat. Some built sturdier shelters. A **shelter** is a safe place to live. Others used animal furs to make warmer clothing. Still others learned to use fire to keep warm. Some people could not adapt to the Ice Age. They died.

Crossing a Bridge

The Ice Age brought one more very important change to the world. As ice formed, the levels of the oceans dropped. What did this mean? Lower water levels meant that more land was above water. Areas of land became connected by "land bridges." One land bridge connected Korea and Japan. Another connected Great Britain to Europe. A third bridge connected Russia and Alaska. This bridge is called Beringia.

Scientists have a theory about Beringia. A **theory** explains how or why something happens. This theory explains how people came to North and South America. Scientists believe that early people migrated across the Beringia land bridge. When people **migrate**, they move from one place to another. These people arrived first in Alaska. Then they spread to the south. In time, they reached North, Central, and South America. They became the first Americans.



My Social Studies Vocabulary

Go to page 94 to list other words you have learned about the Ice Age.



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A. Fill in the blanks with the correct vocabulary word.

1. a thick sheet of ice

2. change

3. a safe place to live

4. long-term weather patterns

5. the hotness or coldness of something

6. move from one place to another

7. information that proves something happened

8. the food people eat

9. an explanation of how or why something happens

10. continuing life



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B. Choose and write the two words that best complete each sentence.

climate

theory

evidence

migrate

1. Scientists look for _____ to support a
_____.

migrate

temperature

adapt

theory

2. One way early people tried to _____ to the Ice Age was to
_____ to warmer places.

adapt

glacier

shelter

survival

3. When a large sheet of ice called a _____ spread, the
_____ of people was in doubt.

theory

evidence

temperature

climate

4. As the world's _____ changed, the
_____ on Earth grew colder.

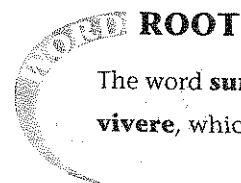
survival

shelter

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5. Some early people changed their _____, while others
built a better _____ to live in.



The word **survival** comes from the Latin word **vivere**, which means "to live."



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C. Choose the correct vocabulary word to complete each sentence.

1. As temperatures cooled during the Ice Age, people's _____ was at risk.
2. A warmer _____ can protect you from the cold.
3. A place's long-term weather pattern is its _____.
4. A scientist creates a _____ to explain how or why something happens.
5. People from Asia chose to _____ across a land bridge to North America.
6. During the Ice Age, a slow-moving _____ might have covered parts of North America, Europe, and Asia.
7. Some early people changed their _____, or the food they ate, during the Ice Age.
8. Information that proves something happened is called _____.
9. As the world became colder in the Ice Age, humans had to _____ the way they lived.
10. During the Ice Age, the world's _____ fell and ice spread.



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D. Use each word in a sentence that shows you understand the meaning of the word.

1. temperature _____

2. evidence _____

3. adapt _____

4. diet _____

5. climate _____

6. migrate _____

7. shelter _____

8. theory _____

9. glacier _____

10. survival _____



Write!

*Write your response to the prompt on a separate sheet of paper.
Use as many vocabulary words as you can in your writing.*

Imagine that our world suddenly turned very cold. Write a list of five suggestions that people in your community might want to follow to adapt to the new climate.

