

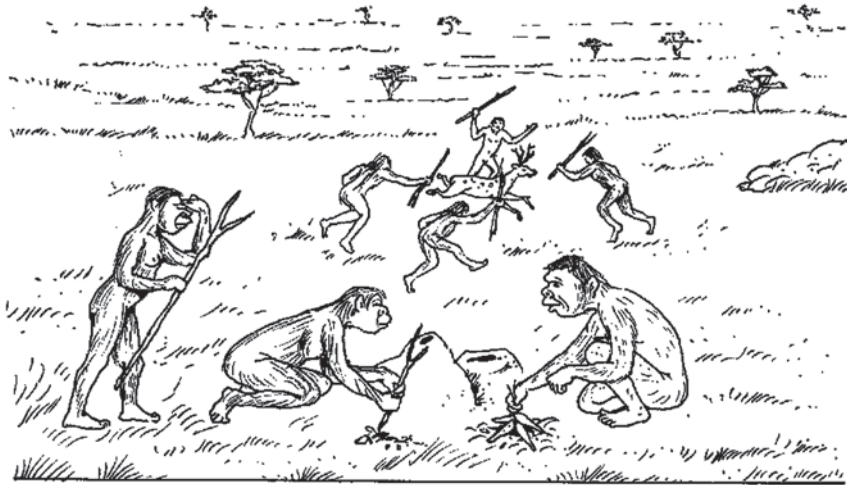
A brief story of Human Life on Earth

Human-like creatures (homonoids) evolved on Earth at least two million years ago. The species of homo sapiens (as 'modern humans' are called) came into existence 200,000 years ago. Both these developments took place in the grasslands and forests of Africa. Then our human ancestors, gradually spread out of Africa to various other parts of the world. They adapted to different landscapes and climates as they migrated across the globe. In the time since then, human beings have developed newer and more complex ways of life. In doing so, they have changed the face of the Earth in dramatic ways.

This is a picture story that shows you some major episodes in the story of humans on Earth.

You are invited to write out this story as you 'see it' in the 'snap shot views' presented below. Each picture has a story to tell. A few questions are included to help you tell the story in your own words. You can write out each episode in the box below the picture.

On the African Savanna, 2,000, 000 years ago.



Who are these creatures? What kind of landscape do they live in? How do they manage to live here?

Living in a forest, 90,000 years ago



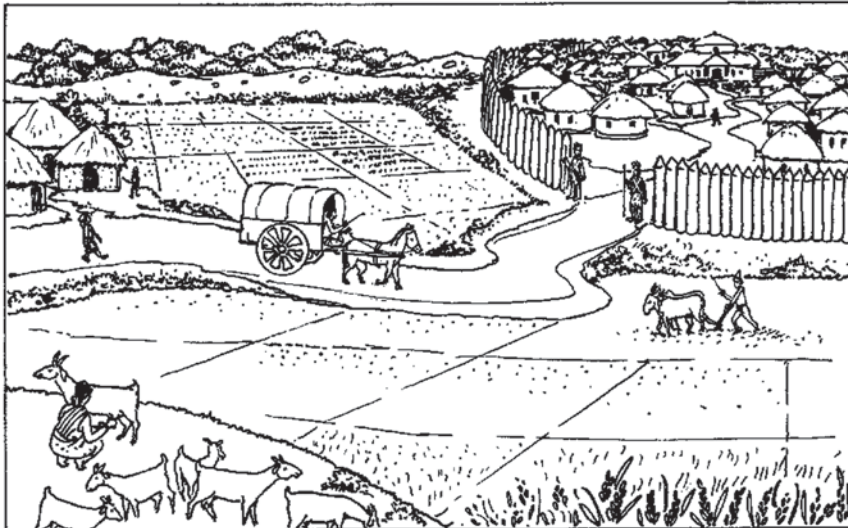
Where are these human beings living? What is the surrounding area like?
How is their life similar to, as well as different from, the creatures in the first picture?

Settling down, 8000 years ago



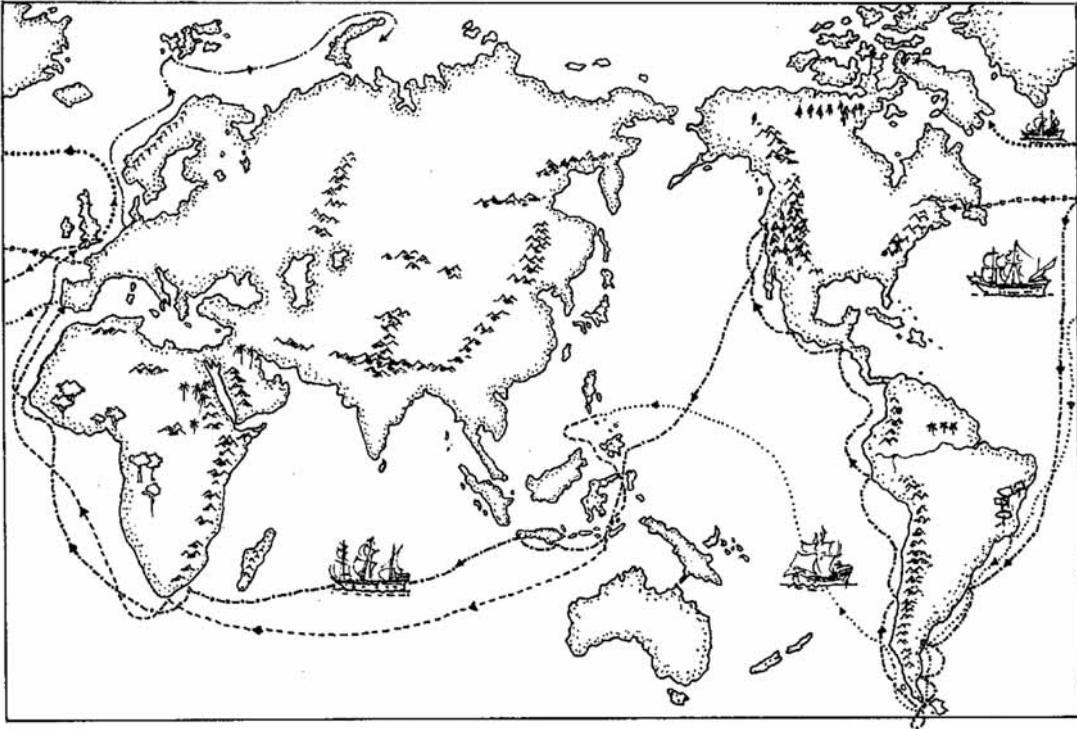
In what two major ways has human life here changed from the previous stage?
What human activities can be observed in this picture?

Defending our town, 1500 years ago



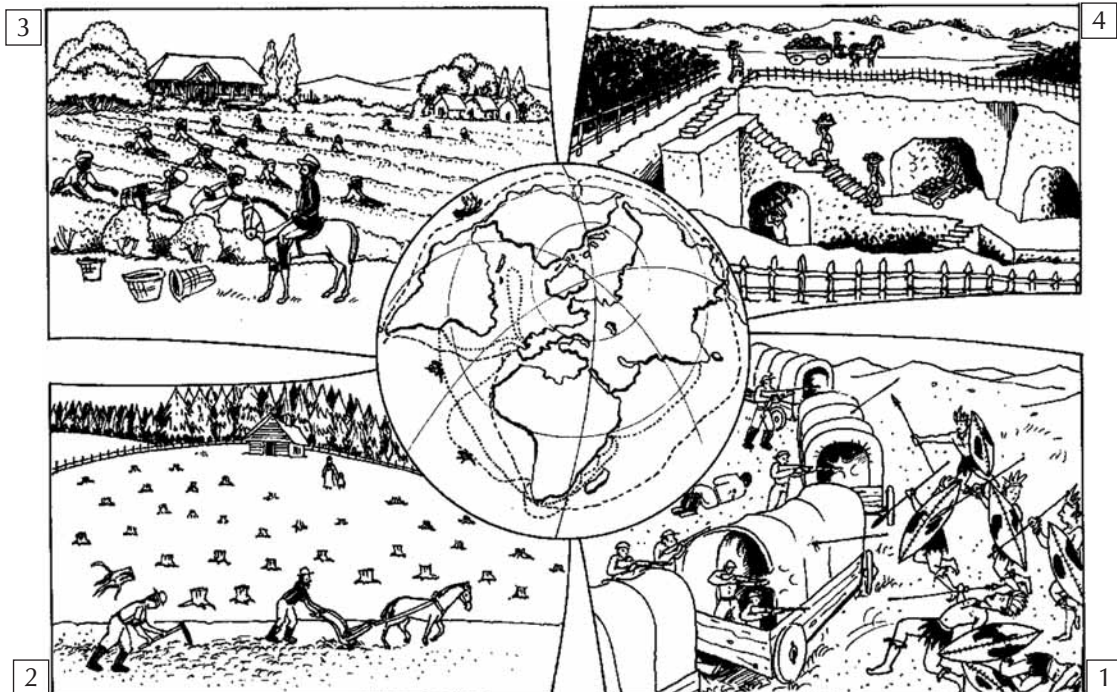
What two ways of living can be seen in this picture?
 What major new changes have taken place in human activities?
 How have the numbers of humans changed?

Journeys of exploration and conquest, 500 years ago



The world map shows that, at some stage, people from one part of the world (mostly Europe) began to travel and explore other parts of the world. They did this for adventure, for trading with other places, and also to settle down and 'colonize' other places for their own benefit. Eventually, such colonizers reached most of the inhabited parts of the world. The picture below shows some of the things that many powerful colonizers did in faraway places of the world.

Impact of colonization, 300 to 400 years ago





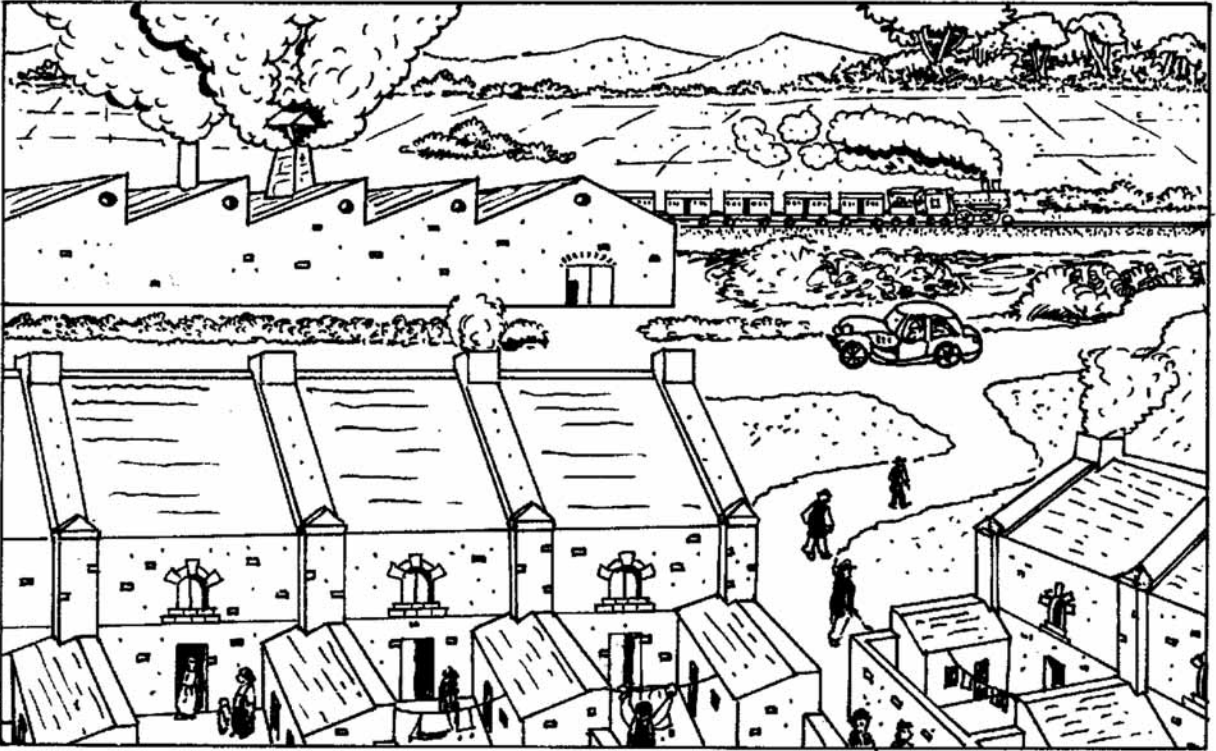
1) Whom did the colonizers need to fight with? And how did they do this?
Who might have won these fights? With what results?

2) What activities of the colonists are seen here?
What is their purpose in doing these activities?

3) What kind of agriculture is introduced in the new lands that were colonized?
Who did the colonizers make use of for this work?
How did their way of living differ from those who did the work?

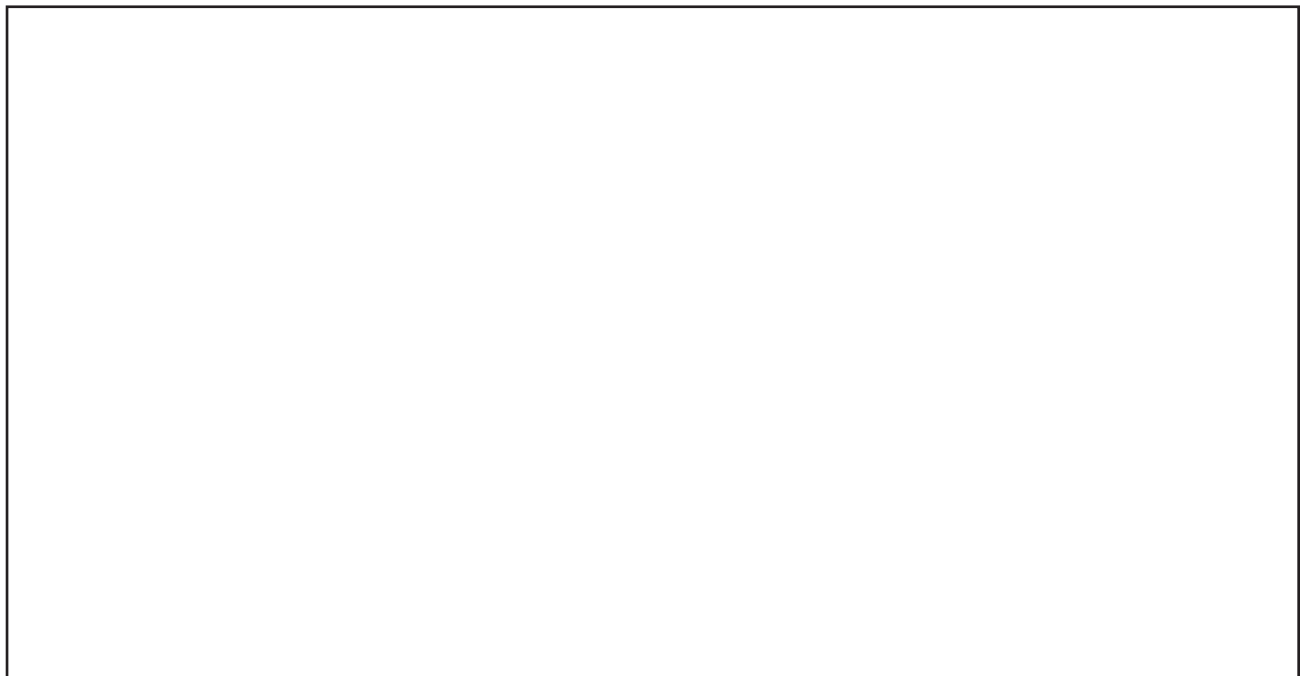
4) What do you think the colonizers are 'removing' from under the earth?
Who is doing the work? What effects would this activity have?

The Industrial Revolution, 200 years ago

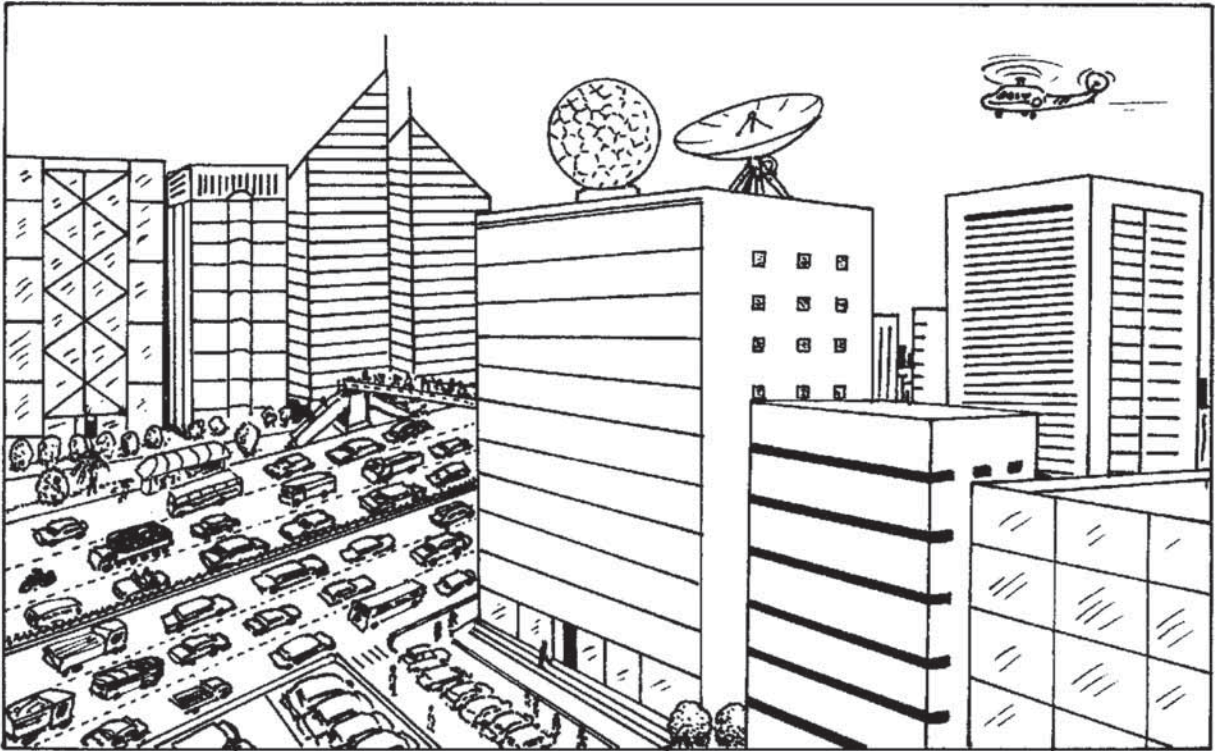


Many major changes in human lifestyles have taken place by the time of this snap-shot view! This is the beginning of what is called the industrial revolution, which began in Europe and later spread to other parts of the world.

What new features of human lifestyles can you see in this picture?
What effect might this have had on the surrounding environment?
Would it also have an effect on faraway places?

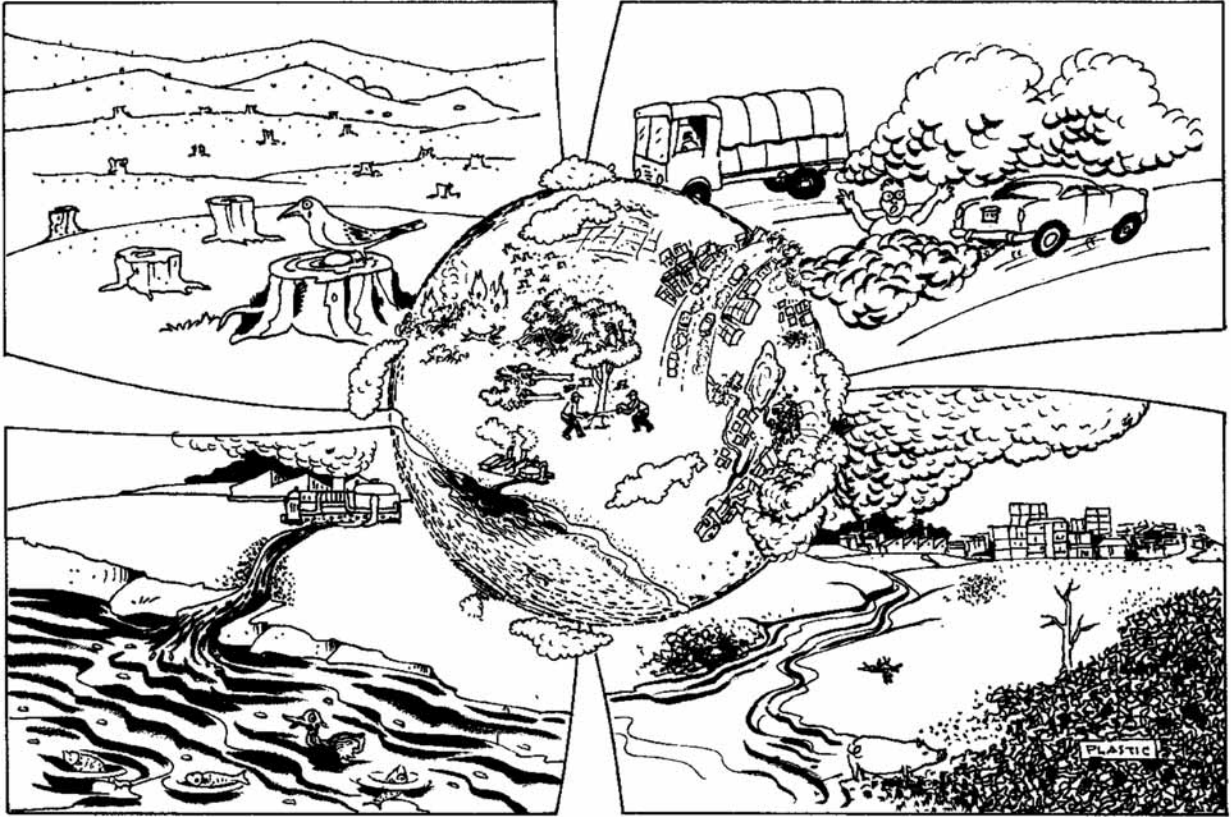


Modern urbanization, last 30 years



Human life is seen to have been further transformed in this snap shot view! This is the urban 'landscape' of a modern city – found in many parts of the world.

Where do we see humans living here? What kind of lives do they now lead?
Has this change taken place in all parts of the world, or only in some? Why?



What are the some major effects of these changes in human lifestyle on nature, and on the planet itself?

How has the relationship of human beings with nature changed since they lived in forests 90,000 years ago?