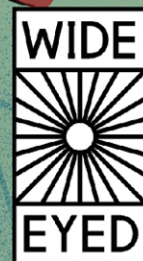




A Visual COMPENDIUM of Wonders from Human History

By Amanda Wood & Mike Jolley





A Chapter Two book
created by Amanda Wood and Mike Jolley



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Illustrations © 2018 Andres Lozano. Concept, design and art direction by Mike Jolley.

First published in 2018 by Wide Eyed Editions, an imprint of The Quarto Group.
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A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Digital edition: 978-1-78603-687-2

Hardcover edition: 978-1-84780-993-3

The illustrations were created digitally
Set in Gill Sans

Published by Jenny Broom and Rachel Williams
Edited by Katie Cotton
Production by Jenny Cundill and Kate O'Riordan
Consultants: Professor Mark Pagel, FRS, and Jennie Roman

Manufactured in Dongguan, China TL052018

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



A Visual COMPENDIUM of Wonders from Human History

HUMAN WORLD

By Amanda Wood & Mike Jolley • Illustrated by Andrés Lozano

WIDE EYED EDITIONS



Editor's Note

IF YOU LOOK 'CURIOSITY' UP IN A DICTIONARY, IT WILL SAY SOMETHING LIKE, 'A DESIRE TO KNOW OR TO LEARN'. This sounds simple enough, but it is in fact one of the fundamental building blocks of our history. Along with our intelligence, curiosity has taken us from our early beginnings as hunter-gatherers to where we are today.

After all, without a desire to explore and explain, how would our ancestors, many thousands of years ago, have learned to control fire? How would we have first decided to try to tame and keep animals for food, rather than simply hunting them? How would we have had the courage to venture across the icy wilderness of the north to reach America from Asia? All of the great leaps forward in human history, from farming to the Renaissance and the Industrial Revolution, have been driven by our unquenchable desire to learn and to discover.

From our earliest origins to the year 1600, we have amassed a huge wealth of knowledge.

And these new discoveries and inventions are all interconnected, as this book will show you. For example, farming gave us more time, which led to huge developments in crafts, such as pottery. Better boat building allowed us to trade with other countries, meaning that we shared parts of our culture and language. We have learned to treat illness, sail the seas, speak and write in myriad languages, and create astonishing objects that do everything from telling the time to – more recently – telling us anything we want to know.

But, of course, we are still learning. As humans become more and more knowledgeable about our past, our future becomes ever harder to predict. The past few decades have seen men go to the moon and the birth of the internet. Who knows what exciting developments and inventions are in store in the coming years? Set out on your own adventure in this book, and imagine how curiosity could change our world as never before.

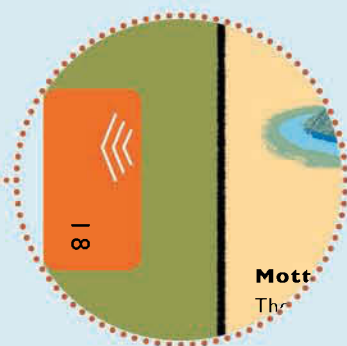


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Example 1

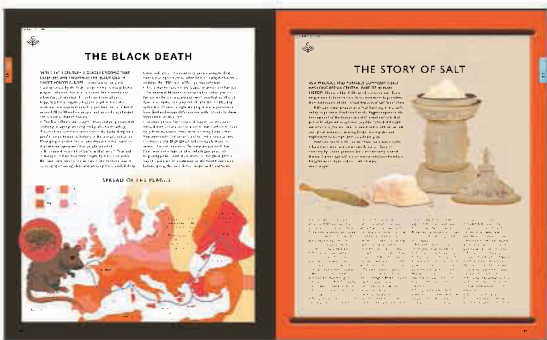


Follow the arrows and chart numbers...



Example 2

A note on dates:
Because there is no agreement on when time began, historians have agreed on a 'Year One'. For Christians it is the birth of Jesus Christ, for Muslims the year of Mohammed's return to Mecca.
BCE means 'Before the Common Era', that is before Year One. This means that dates are counted backwards, for example 100 BCE means 100 years before Year One.
CE means 'Common Era'. 100 CE means 100 years after Year One.
c. means circa, meaning 'approximately'.





How to use this book

EVERY TIME YOU OPEN THIS BOOK you can go on a different journey of discovery to find out more about the history of the human world. All of the charts in this book are colour-coded according to the subject matter:

Orange charts tell you about topics from **human history**, from the early evolution of humans to life in a medieval town.

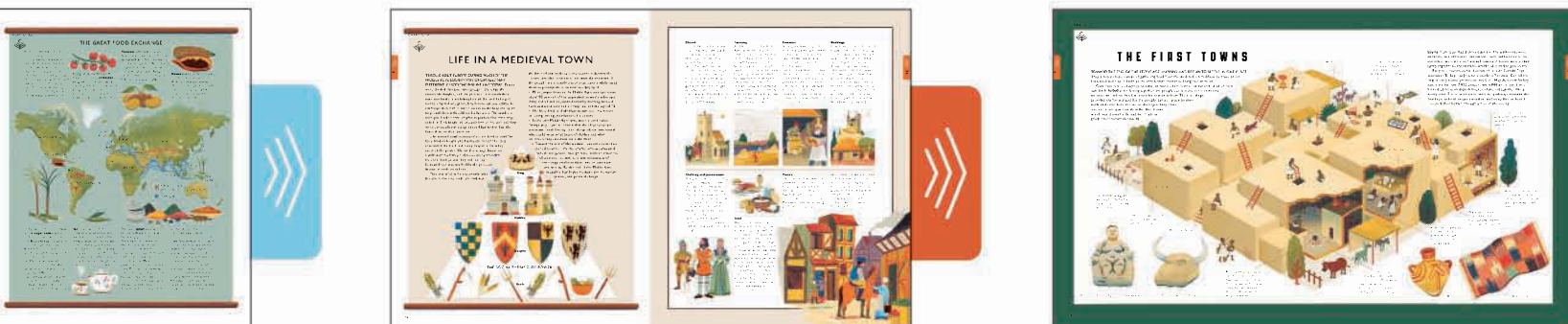
Yellow charts focus on developments in **art and culture**, from the evolution of writing to the great artists of the Renaissance.

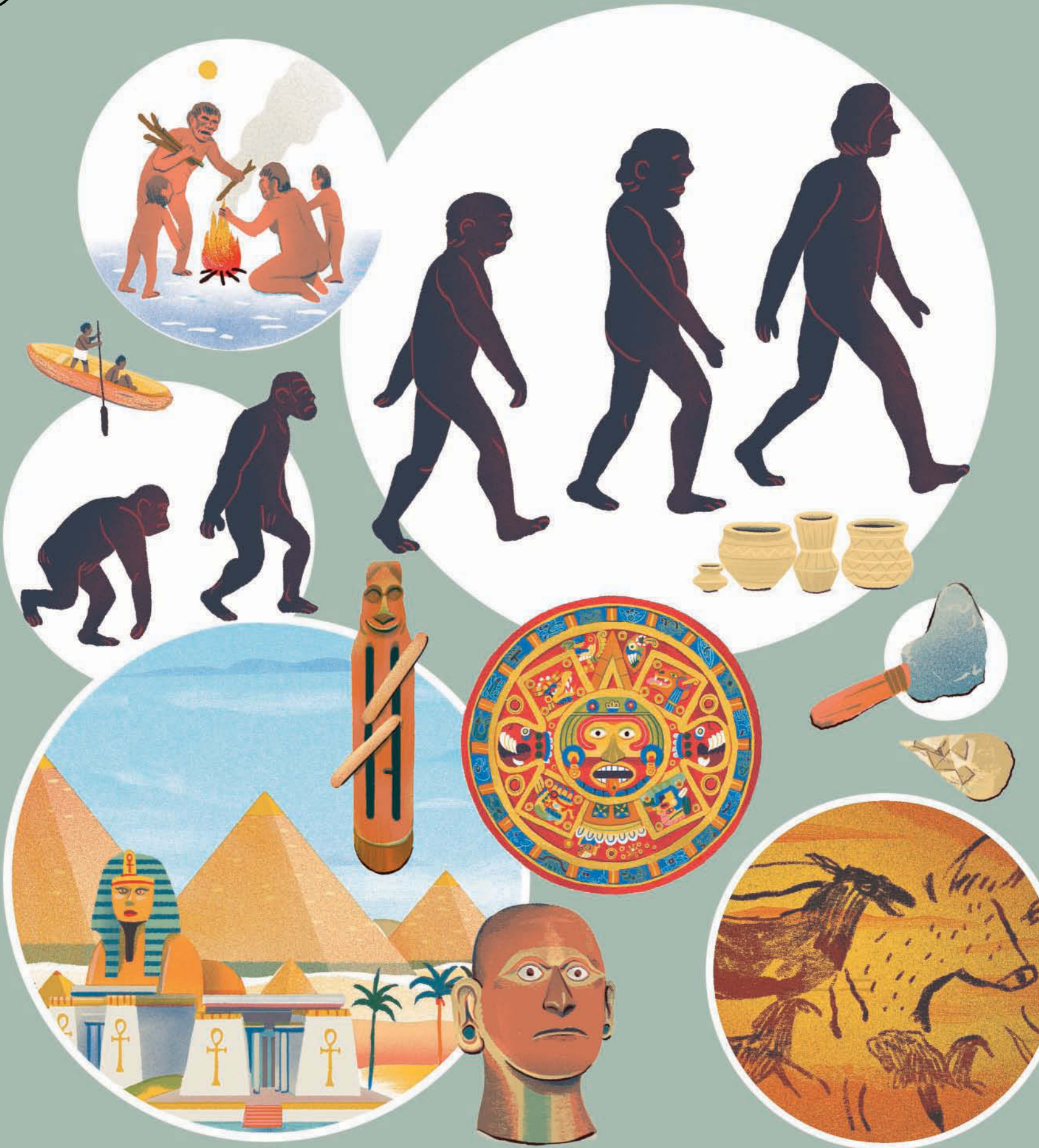
Blue charts look at **science, trade and technology**, from early inventions to the world's oldest trading routes.

If you like, you can simply start the book at the beginning and continue reading until you get to the end. Use the coloured ribbons like bookmarks, to mark your place or so that you can return to pages that you found especially interesting.

Alternatively, open the book wherever you like (you could even start right at the back) and then look for the coloured arrows that you'll find in the left and right margins of each double-page spread. They'll take you backwards or forwards to other charts in the book containing information that is connected in some way to what you have just read.

Be curious, follow the arrows and find out something new on every journey you take.





HUMAN BEGINNINGS



THE STORY OF HUMANS BEGINS AROUND 7 MILLION YEARS AGO WHEN OUR EARLIEST APE-LIKE ANCESTORS FIRST APPEARED ON EARTH. Over the millions of years that followed, these early species diverged into many different kinds. Some lived alongside each other, competing for survival. By around 2–3 million years ago the earliest species we might call ‘human’ existed, although they were very different from us. Then around 200,000 years ago one particular kind of human appeared, *Homo sapiens* – which means the ‘wise man’. By 40,000 years ago they were the only type of human left.

Although they lived so very long ago, those early *Homo sapiens* were biologically the same as we are today. They had the same ability to use language – to talk and laugh and sing, the same long limbs that enabled them to run and climb and dance, and the same dextrous hands that allowed them to paint or make tools or fashion jewellery. They spread from their origins in Africa to eventually colonise the entire planet.

Early human and archaeological remains offer us important clues about our ancient past. The size and shape of fossilised bones, and the markings left by muscles, tell us how our predecessors looked, moved around and how the size of their brains changed over time. Tools and other objects help us understand how early humans lived and how this evolved, as they moved from living in small groups of hunter-gatherers to the first farming communities — the beginning of civilisation as we understand it today.

But this story of our early evolution is not necessarily complete. At any time the discovery of a new fossil or other prehistoric remains can lead to a better understanding of how we lived and changed over time. The history of our human world may yet have surprises in store...



A LOOK AT HUMAN EVOLUTION

OUR EARLIEST ANCESTORS WERE HUMAN-LIKE ANIMALS KNOWN AS HOMININS. They evolved from early apes, and over millions of years developed important human characteristics – the ability to walk on two legs, a large and increasingly complex brain, the skill to make and use tools, and the ability to master their environment rather than being at its mercy. But this evolutionary journey involved not just one species, but many, with different types of hominin rising up and dying out along the way.

Our understanding of this evolutionary journey is full of gaps that new fossil finds might change at any time. What is clear is that it took millions of years for Homo sapiens – the first modern humans –

to appear, but only a few thousand years for us to advance beyond all other hominin species and colonise the entire planet.

- Humans are primates. Physical and genetic similarities show that modern humans and the great apes of Africa – chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas – are descended from a common ancestor that lived in Africa between 8 and 6 million years ago.
- Around 3 million years ago the first hominins belonging to the genus Homo (the group that includes modern humans) appeared in Africa. A number of distinct groups of these early humans lived during this time but only our ancestor Homo sapiens survived.
- Most scientists currently recognise some 20 different species of early humans, although they don't all agree about how these species are identified and related. Scientists also debate what factors influenced the evolution and extinction of each species.

