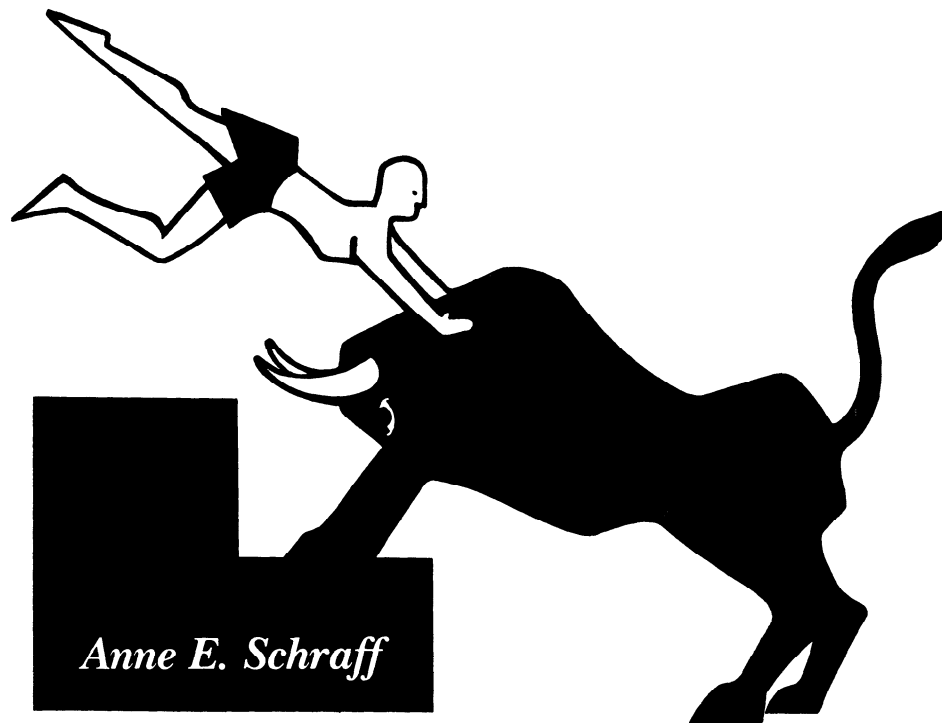

CHOOSING YOUR WAY THROUGH THE WORLD'S ANCIENT PAST



Anne E. Schraff

illustrated by Steven Meyers



J. Weston Walch, Publisher

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- (a) go to Constantinople
- (b) stay in Rome

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Answer Key

1. In the Beginning

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. a |
| 2. e | 5. c |
| 3. b | |

2. The First Farmers

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. T | 4. T |
| 2. T | 5. T |
| 3. F | |

3. A Person's Best Friend

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. T | 4. F |
| 2. T | 5. T |
| 3. F | |

4. The Surprising Sumerians

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. d |
| 2. e | 5. b |
| 3. a | |

5. Babylon and Beyond

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. e |
| 2. d | 5. b |
| 3. a | |

6. Indus Valley Decision

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. e |
| 2. c | 5. b |
| 3. a | |

7. Careers in Crete

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. e | 4. d |
| 2. a | 5. b |
| 3. c | |

8. The Great Pharaoh and the Slaves

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. e |
| 2. a | 5. b |
| 3. d | |

9. A Gift in the Land of Canaan

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. d | 4. e |
| 2. b | 5. c |
| 3. a | |

10. An Athenian Dream

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. e | 4. d |
| 2. c | 5. b |
| 3. a | |

11. A Spartan Life

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. d |
| 2. e | 5. b |
| 3. a | |

12. The Persian Plot

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. d |
| 2. a | 5. e |
| 3. b | |

13. The Great Teacher

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. b | 4. d |
| 2. a | 5. c |
| 3. e | |

14. Riding with Alexander the Great

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. c | 4. b |
| 2. d | 5. e |
| 3. a | |

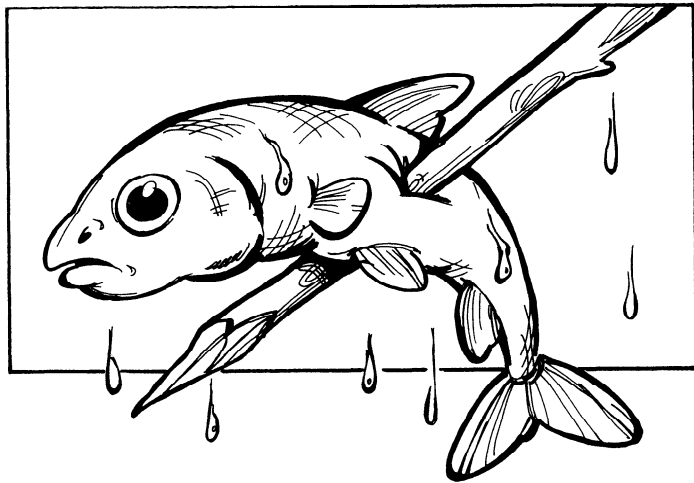
15. The People of Han

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. T | 4. T |
| 2. T | 5. F |
| 3. F | |

16. The Last Days of Carthage

- | | |
|------|------|
| 1. b | 4. a |
| 2. e | 5. c |
| 3. d | |

In the Beginning— 60,000 Years Ago



You live on the hot, sandy shores of an African river. Your home is an oval hut made from branches pushed into the sand and propped up with rocks. The hut is covered with brush. It protects you from the hot sun and heavy rains.

Stooping near your hut, you skin a rabbit for dinner. You use a pebble tool, a natural stone chipped to have sharp edges. You don't have many tools, just a scraper and a v-shaped rock used as a cleaver.

Sometimes you fish, using a pointed stick to spear them. But you like the meat of rabbits and shrews better than fish. You also like juicy wild berries and roots.

You take the skinned rabbit into your hut. You have a small hearth in your hut. It is only a circle of stones to build a fire on. Now you drive a stick through the rabbit and turn it over the flames.

You keep your fire going all the time. You need flaming sticks to drive wild animals away from your hut. And roasting meat makes it tastier and more tender. You sometimes lose your fire. A wind can blow it out. Then you must work long and hard to make a new one. Sometimes twirling a sharp stick in the hollow of a flat stick makes a spark.

Sometimes you eat raw meat. You must chew and chew until your jaws ache. But today a good

smell fills your hut. How wonderful the roasted meat smells! When you are no longer hungry and there is very little meat left, you go outside. You kneel by a spring and scoop up a drink of water.

You have lived here all your life. The river is like a member of your family. But now you are a strong young adult. You wonder if there is a better place to live than here. In recent years the game animals have become less common. Where have they gone to? You worry that there will not be enough to eat next year. You must travel and find where the animals have gone.

When you climb into a tall thorn tree for a better view, you see greener land to the south. To the north, the land rises. Perhaps the herds have gone there. What about the land to the east? Should you explore there?

■ *If you go south, turn to page 3.*

■ *If you go north, turn to page 4.*

■ *If you go east, turn to page 6.*

Find out what your fate is!



You begin your journey south along the river. You are nervous as you walk. You have never been this far from your hut before. Just ahead, in a clump of thick trees, you see a large yellow piece of fruit hanging from a branch. You pull the fruit down and taste it. It is sweet and juicy. It is so much larger than the small berries you are used to. It is like a breadfruit—sweet and starchy.

You stoop and peer into the river. There are more fish in this part of the river. It is easy to spear one. In nearby trees monkeys scream and chatter. This part of the river is very rich in animal and plant life.

You return to your old hut and gather a few tools. Your spouse and your son and daughter place live coals from the fire in a pot which they carry with them, so that you always have fire. You will all go south along the river to find a better place to live.

After many days of travel you find a place for your new hut. You drive branches into the soft earth and soon have a brush-covered hut. You start your hearth fire and get used to your new home.

Your children enjoy watching bright green parrots screeching in the trees. But there is little time to watch parrots. Everyone must work hard. A new hand-axe must be made. There are animals to be skinned and fruit to gather.

You find that life is better here. Food is more plentiful and the weather is warmer.

But perhaps if you went even farther south, life would be better still.

Every few years you travel farther south. Your children grow tall and strong. There are joys and sorrows. One of your small sons drowns in the river. One of your daughters is killed by a prowling wildcat.

By the time you build your last hut, you have moved to a very hot southern woodland. The sun burns down. You have turned darker. Your children and grandchildren are darker, too.

You had thick, dark hair as a young adult, but your descendants will have thicker and woolier hair. This will protect their heads from the strong rays of the sun. You turned darker from years of strong sunlight, but your descendants will be much darker than you ever were. Nature will allow the darkest children to be the healthiest, and even darker children will be born of them. Dark skin provides more protection from the hot sun.

Your descendants will be the parents of many African peoples.

■ *Turn to page 9.*



Different Peoples

Back in the Stone Age, our common ancestors were probably medium dark with long, dark hair. Then, as small groups moved around to different climates, they began to change in appearance. Darker skin did better in Africa, so darker people had more and healthier children. Soon Africans were very dark-skinned. Lighter skin did better in colder climates. Whatever kind of hair and skin we have today is not important, but back then it was a matter of survival.

We are all from the same family of humanity. Our Stone Age relatives must have had a lot of courage, for wherever they went life was hard. Our original human family was once very small, probably living in Africa. Now we are many, living all over the world.

Matching

- | | | |
|-------|---|---------------------------------|
| _____ | 1. This helped against sun glare on snow | a) cleavers |
| _____ | 2. This helped in a hot climate | b) light skin |
| _____ | 3. This helped in a cold climate | c) tender |
| _____ | 4. V-shaped rocks were used as | d) extra fold of skin over eyes |
| _____ | 5. Roasting meat made it tastier and more | e) dark skin |

Group Activities

1. Collect natural rocks, some of which are whole and some broken. Bring them to school, arrange them on a table, and discuss how you could have used these rocks in the Stone Age.
2. Look at a large map of the world. Starting from Kenya, where some believe the earliest people lived, draw three bright paths with felt pens. One should lead toward Asia, one toward Europe, and one into southern Africa.
3. Discuss Stone Age life. Which parts of it were most difficult? Which parts might have been easier than our present-day lives?

Individual Activities

1. We learn about Stone Age people by uncovering places where people lived. These places are called digs. Make a clay-filled box and press in items such as a fork, pencil, or screwdriver. Notice how the shapes that are left tell you a lot, even when the object is removed.
2. Write a paragraph about Stone Age tools.
3. If a Stone Age person came into your classroom, what three questions would you ask him or her? Write them down.

