Early Humans: Human Migration and Early Settlements

We will examine how humans moved around the world and created settlements by looking at:

1. Human Migration
2. Early Settlements

Human Migration

All human development began in Africa.

- As people became more mobile and their tools advanced, they began spreading out in search of food, better living conditions, or because they were inherently curious.
- Early human movement happened at the same time as an ice age.
- An ice age is a period of time when the earth’s temperature cools and glaciers cover more of its surface.
- The last ice age began 110,000 years ago and ended 12,000 years ago.
- Much of Earth’s water was frozen in glaciers so water levels dropped exposing land between continents. These temporary bridges were called land bridges.
- Land bridges helped people to spread around the world.
- About 60,000 years ago, humans left Africa
- 20,000 years ago, the Bering Strait land bridge allowed humans to move from Asia to North America
- By 14,000 years ago, they had reached the tip of South America.
- This is called human migration.

Human migration also explains why we have different coloured skin, even though we are all the same species. Here’s Bill Nye explaining it: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BNIGQ-f9raQ
Watch this video on Charting Human Migration
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CldT6QcSbQ0

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=How+Did+Early+Man+Farm&&view=detail&mid=244CB85B8A88DFB9A8F6244CB85B8A88DFB9A8F6&&FORM=VRDGAR

Watch this PBS Eon video on what happened when we met other humans:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jdYwMLSNHnU
Early Human Settlements

- During the Neolithic period, people began to **farm** *(agriculture)* and **domesticate** *(tame)* animals.
- This change led to:
  - a surplus *(extra)* of food
  - settlements
- People could now spend time on things besides finding food.
  - Governments were organized to protect and run the settlement
  - Not all villagers needed to farm, so some people could do other jobs. This is called a **division of labour**.
  - Surplus food/grain could be **traded**
  - People had time to make things not necessary to survival, like **art**
- Civilizations began to develop