

## Lesson 1 Finding fossil man 发现化石人

 First listen and then answer the following question.

听录音, 然后回答以下问题。

Why are legends handed down by storytellers useful?

We can read of things that happened 5,000 years ago in the Near East, where people first learned to write. But there are some parts of the world where even now people cannot write. The only way that they can preserve their history is to recount it as sagas—legends handed down from one generation of storytellers to another. These legends are useful because they can tell us something about migrations of people who lived 5 long ago, but none could write down what they did. Anthropologists wondered where the remote ancestors of the Polynesian peoples now living in the Pacific Islands came from. The sagas of these people explain that some of them came from Indonesia about 2,000 years ago.

But the first people who were like ourselves lived so long ago that even their sagas, if they had any, are forgotten. So archaeologists have neither history nor legends to help them to find out where the first 'modern 10 men' came from.

Fortunately, however, ancient men made tools of stone, especially flint, because this is easier to shape than other kinds. They may also have used wood and skins, but these have rotted away. Stone does not decay, and so the tools of long ago have remained when even the bones of the men who made them have disappeared without trace.

ROBIN PLACE *Finding fossil man*



Polished axeheads found at Seamers Moor in Yorkshire

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### D Compare these two sentences:

*Instead of saying:*

So archaeologists have neither history nor legends to *help them to find* out where the first 'modern men' came from. (11.9-10)

*We can say:*

So archaeologists have neither history nor legends to *help them find out* where the first 'modern men' came from.

Write two sentences using these expressions: help me to lift; helped me make.

### E Supply the word *the* where necessary in this paragraph. Do not refer to the passage until you have finished the exercise:

Fortunately, however, \_\_\_\_\_ ancient men made \_\_\_\_\_ tools of \_\_\_\_\_ stone, especially \_\_\_\_\_ flint, because this is easier to shape than \_\_\_\_\_ other kinds. They may also have used \_\_\_\_\_ wood and \_\_\_\_\_ skins, but these have rotted away. \_\_\_\_\_ stone does not decay, and so \_\_\_\_\_ tools of long ago have remained when even \_\_\_\_\_ bones of \_\_\_\_\_ men who made them have disappeared without trace. (11.11-14)

### F Compare these two sentences:

*Instead of saying: It is possible that they used wood and skins, but these have rotted away.*

*We can say:*

*They may have used wood and skins, but these have rotted away. (1.12)*

Write these sentences again using the construction with *may have*.

- 1 It is possible that your mother called when you were out.
- 2 It is possible that you left your umbrella in the waiting room.
- 3 It is possible that he changed his mind.

## Special difficulties 难点

### A Study the following pairs of words and then write sentences of your own to bring out the difference.

- 1 parts (1.2) — places

Ancient rock paintings have been found in many parts of Spain and Portugal.

Of all the wonderful places in Italy, Florence and Venice are the two that most tourists wish to see.

- 2 history (1.3) — story

We often know little about the history of our own times.

Climb into bed and I'll read you a bedtime story.

(Please note: a story is an account, often fictional, of what happened in someone's experience; history is a factual account of past public or universal events)

- 3 wonder (1.5) — wander

I wonder if we've made a mistake here.

I love wandering around second-hand bookshops.

- 4 like (1.8) — as

There's no one like you.

Please do as I say.

- 5 find out (1.9) — find

What we have to do now is find out why the accident happened.

I'm sure I've already paid this bill, but I can't find the receipt.

- 6 ancient (l.11) — old  
Property developers often have little regard for ancient/old buildings. (old in terms of time; ancient = old in terms of history)  
World leaders are often old men.  
Mr. Briggs is an old friend of mine. (= one I have known for a long time)
- 7 tool (l.11) — instrument  
We need some basic tools like a hammer and a screwdriver.  
A dentist's instruments need to be constantly sterilized.
- 8 stone (l.11) — rock  
The old church is full of beautiful stone sculptures.  
Rocks had fallen from above, making the roads impassable.
- 9 skin (l.12) — leather  
I've such a bad skin, I'm always coming out in spots.  
Shoes made of real leather have become so expensive.

**B Study the use of *happen* in these sentences:**

We can read of things that *happened* 5,000 years ago ... (l.1)

He *happened* to be an archaeologist.

It *happened* that he knew the answer.

Complete the following sentences:

- 1 Do you happen \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- 2 It so happens that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 3 Can you tell me what \_\_\_\_\_ ?

**Multiple choice questions 多项选择题**

Choose the correct answers to the following questions.

**Comprehension 理解**

- 1 In illiterate societies, story-telling is a way of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) teaching people how to write  
(b) allowing us to find out about things that happened 5,000 years ago  
(c) passing knowledge of the past from one generation to another  
(d) preserving sagas recounted by story-tellers
- 2 It is extremely likely that ancient people \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) moved from one place to another  
(b) came from Indonesia  
(c) have left us information about their migrations  
(d) preserved their sagas and legends
- 3 Anthropologists have been curious about \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) how Indonesia came to be inhabited  
(b) how the Polynesian islands came to be inhabited  
(c) why the Polynesian people travelled from Indonesia  
(d) how the sagas told by ancient people were written

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- 4 Though wood and skins rot away, anthropologists can learn a great deal from \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) materials that are easy to shape  
(b) the bones of men who made tools  
(c) stones that do not decay  
(d) ancient tools made from stone

Structure 句型

- 5 In some parts of the world people are still \_\_\_\_\_ to write. (11.1-2)  
(a) incapable (b) impotent (c) enable (d) unable
- 6 They can preserve their history \_\_\_\_\_ down legends. (1.3)  
(a) by hand (b) by handing (c) to hand (d) in hand
- 7 The \_\_\_\_\_ why these legends are useful is that they tell us about migrations. (1.4)  
(a) cause (b) effect (c) why (d) reason
- 8 There weren't \_\_\_\_\_ of them who could write down what they did. (1.5)  
(a) any (b) none (c) no one (d) no

Vocabulary 词汇

- 9 The only way they can preserve their history is to \_\_\_\_\_ stories. (11.2-3)  
(a) tell (b) make (c) say (d) recount
- 10 The people who lived long ago could not \_\_\_\_\_ their history. (1.5)  
(a) make (b) know (c) record (d) note
- 11 Some sagas tell us about the \_\_\_\_\_ of Polynesian peoples. (11.6-7)  
(a) origin (b) ancestors (c) explanation (d) legend
- 12 Tools made of stone, especially flint, were made by \_\_\_\_\_. (1.11)  
(a) old men (b) men who lived long ago  
(c) men of old (d) past men