

Natural and Man-Made Materials



Study*ladder*

What is it made of ?

Products can be made from a variety of materials. Some of these materials are sourced directly from nature. We call these *natural materials*. Examples of natural materials include wood, cotton, wool, clay and stone.

Some materials have been engineered by people. They are the result of raw materials that have been combined and changed in some way to make a new material. We call these *man-made materials*.

Examples of man-made materials include steel, glass and plastic.

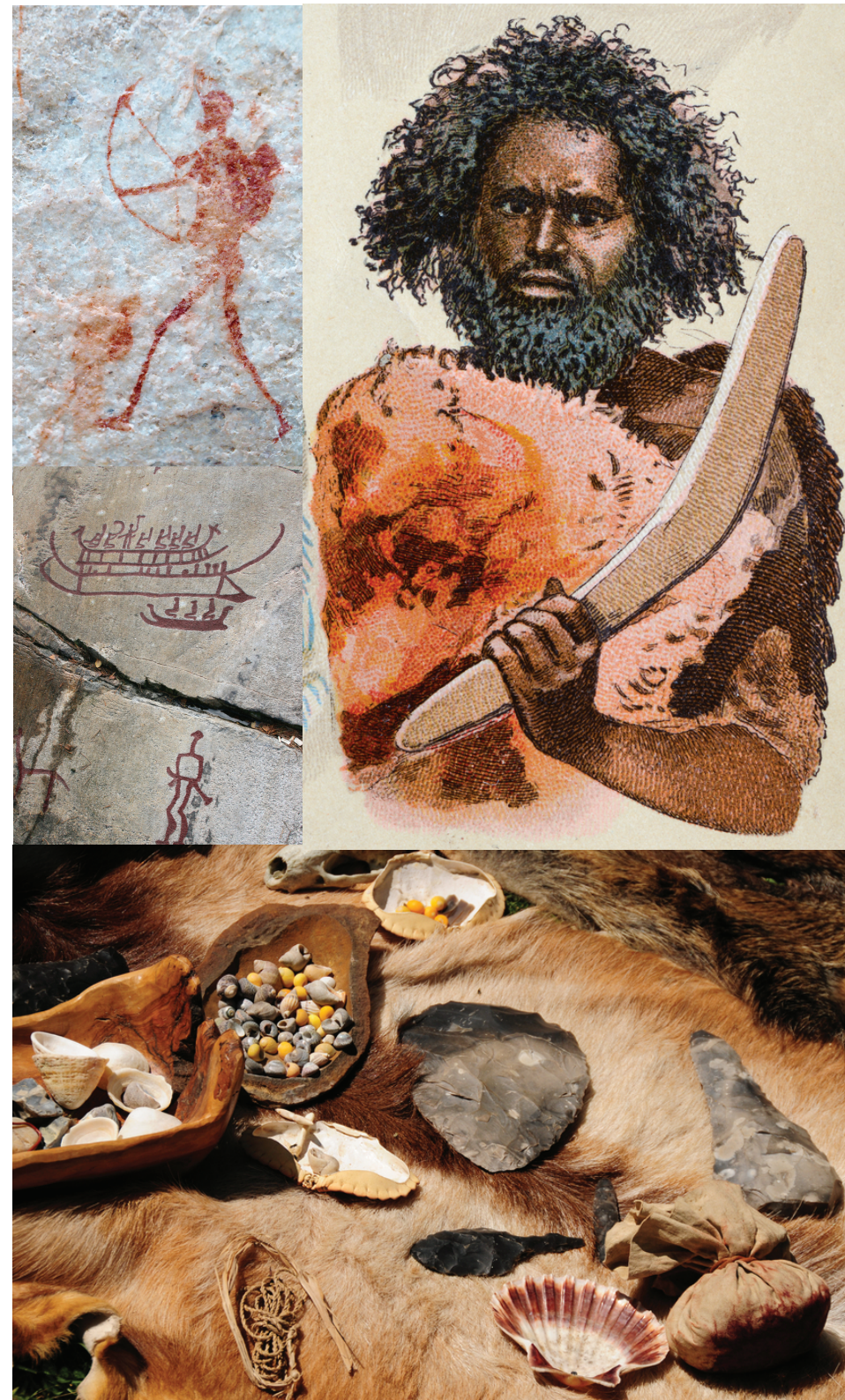


Natural Materials

People have been making goods using natural materials since the beginning of time.

Ancient people in tribes all around the world were experts at using the natural resources available to them to build shelter and make tools for their survival. They were able to use these materials in clever and creative ways.

Prehistoric tribes used stone and wood to make spears, arrows and clubs to help them hunt for food. Sharp stone was used to make cutting tools. They used the skins of animals to make clothing to keep them warm. Leaves and bark were expertly woven and vessels were fashioned out of shell, wood and bark.



Man-Made Materials

People soon discovered that some natural materials could be changed to form new types of material. Over time, ancient people discovered many ways to create new materials that could be used to improve their lives.

Some Examples:

- Products fashioned from clay could be heated so that they could become strong and permanently hold their shape.
- Natural ores could be heated to make strong metals like bronze and iron.

People have continued to be inventive. In modern times, new products like nylon and plastic have emerged. What products will we invent next?

