



*Mizyn site,
painting by Ivan Yizhakevych*

PREHISTORY

The first humanoid creatures emerged in East Africa some 2.5 million years ago. About 1.2 million years ago, humanlike beings came to Europe via the Balkans.

The oldest discovered settlement of hominid creatures in Central and Eastern Europe is located in Ukraine. Hand axes and scrapers made from stone and bones dating back more than 1.1 million years were discovered at a site near the village of Korolevo in Transcarpathia. Flint tools and the bones of the steppe elephant, the Etruscan rhinoceros, the giant deer, hyenas etc. were found at a 400,000-year-old site near Medzhybizh in Khmelnytsky Oblast (region).



*Mammoth tusk decorated with images of birds,
turtles and waves.
Cyril's site, Kyiv*

HOMO SAPIENS

Modern humans (*Homo sapiens sapiens*, or Cro-Magnons, thus named after a rock shelter in France where their fossils were found in the 19th century) emerged in East Africa about 200,000 years ago, came to the Middle East some 85,000 years ago, and reached Europe 40,000 years ago. The territory of Ukraine and the Mediterranean coast were the first European lands inhabited by *Homo sapiens sapiens*.

Alongside them Neanderthals, hominid creatures named for the Neandertal valley in Germany where their fossils were discovered, inhabited Europe, including Ukraine, from the 200th to the 28th millennium BC. Neanderthals did not form tribes and thus lost out to *Homo sapiens sapiens*. However, they did



*The figure of a bird made from mammoth ivory
from excavations at the Mizyn site, Chernihiv Oblast*



*Bracelet made from mammoth ivory and decorated with a meander,
Mizyn site, Northern Ukraine*



*One of the oldest maps (likely showing a ford),
Central Ukraine, Mezhyrich site*