ESSENTIAL QUESTION

- *How do people adapt to their environment?*

LESSON 1

Hunter-Gatherers

THE STORY BEGINS...

This is my first time hunting with the men. Though it is cold, my hand is sweaty as I grip my spear, trying to listen to every sound in every direction. It is a reindeer, I think, or maybe a horse. I have heard these sounds before. We move slowly, quietly. We do not want to scare it. We need the food. We need the skins for warmer clothes. We need to make our shelters warmer and sturdier as the days grow shorter and the nights grow colder. We must be successful. We must. The survival of the group depends on us.

> "[It] is clear that reindeer, red deer, horse, ibex [a wild goat] and bison were the mainstays of Late Upper Paleolithic subsistence, and that these species were taken in numbers, and with tactics and weapons which were unprecedented in the history of hominid adaptations. Besides using the meat, marrow [soft tissue in bones] and brains of mammals for food, hunters also employed bone for fuel, skins for clothing and shelters, antler for tools and art objects, teeth for ornaments, sinews [body tendons] for cordage [ropes], etc."

—From *The Evolution of Human Hunting*, 1987, C.E.

PHOTO: Heritage Images/Hulton Fine Art Collection/Getty Images; TEXT: Nitecki, Matthew H. and Nitecki, Doris V., eds. 2013. The Evolution of Human Hunting. New York: Springer Science & Business Media.

Cave art, such as the Panel of the Unicorn in Lascaux, France, provides some information about the animals likely hunted by Paleolithic peoples. [c. 17,000–15,000 B.C.E.]