

Somos Animales Humanos

We are Human Animals

This book traces back human nature from prehistoric times, giving matter-of-factly descriptions of how we lived on a daily basis, from eating to dressing and socializing. It showcases the ways in which we've evolved and how we've also remained the same. After thousands of years, despite the advancements and how different the world looks, we are still in essence human animals.

This book is terrific to engage the young reader in history, archeology and incite their curiosity about the world we live in. They will be exposed to new words opening up their minds to prehistoric times and human evolution. The author's note at the very end of the book and the artifacts she describes are great conversation starters!

Spanish/ English

Somos Animales Humanos.

We are human animals.

Crecimos en la naturaleza.

We grew up in nature.

Cada día nos despertábamos con el sol y dormíamos cuando se hacía de noche.

Every day, we woke up with the sun and went to sleep when the sun went down.

Las estaciones eran nuestro calendario.

The seasons were our calendar.

¡Conocíamos bien nuestro mundo!

We knew our world well!

Todo lo que teníamos lo fabricábamos nosotros mismos.

Everything that we held we made ourselves.

Recolectábamos o cazábamos toda nuestra comida.

We hunted and gathered our own food.

Algunos animales se hicieron nuestros amigos.

Some animals became our friends.

Otros eran nuestro alimento.

Others were our food.

¡Otros eran nuestros depredadores!

Others were our predators!

Y a algunos los venerábamos...

And others we venerated...

El Sol y la Luna eran misterios.

The sun and the moon were mysteries.

Las estrellas eran nuestras luces guía.

The stars were our guiding lights.

Tocábamos música. Usábamos ropa.

We played music. We wore clothes.

Lucíamos adornos. Hacíamos arte.

We wore jewelry. We made art.

Le pusimos nombre a todo aquello...

We named everything...

A cada creatura, idea y flor.

To every creature, idea and flower.

Nos gustaba encontrarnos para conversar y bailar, y maravillarnos con nuestro mundo.

We liked to get together to talk and dance, and marvel at our world.

Esto fue decenas de miles de años atrás.

This was tens of thousands of years ago.

El mundo es hoy un lugar muy diferente, pero...

The world is a much different place today, yet..

...seguimos siendo animales humanos.

...we are still human animals.

NOTA DE LA AUTORA

Hace muchas decenas de miles de años, los primeros seres humanos como nosotros habitaron la Tierra. Primero vivieron en África, y después, a medida que el paisaje cambiaba y el clima lo permitía, poblaron otros continentes. Nuestro planeta era muy diferente entonces. La naturaleza mandaba. El mundo estaba lleno de animales enormes -como mamuts, ñus y rinocerontes - que viajaban en grandes manadas buscando alimento a través de vastas extensiones de territorio. Nosotros vivíamos en pequeños grupos, y también nos movíamos de un lugar a otro según las estaciones y la disponibilidad de alimento. No éramos muchos en aquel entonces: apenas unos millones de humanos, solo una especie que vivía entre otras. Ahora somos miles de millones y, en cambio, hay muchos menos animales salvajes y plantas. Dejamos alguna evidencia de nuestras vidas a nuestro paso. Pero buena parte de lo que hacíamos y de cómo éramos se ha perdido. Lo que sí sabemos es que vivíamos siendo parte de la naturaleza, y que mucho de lo que hicimos entonces nos ha convertido en quienes somos hoy.

Pienso a menudo en este mundo perdido y siento como si lo echara en falta. La naturaleza humana proviene de nuestro lugar en la naturaleza. Puede que hoy tengamos aviones, teléfonos inteligentes y viajes espaciales; pero nuestras emociones, cuerpos y mentes fueron diseñados para un tiempo anterior. A veces siento una voz que llega de esa parte olvidada de mi mente; un instinto o entendimiento que apenas puedo recordar a medias, y entonces sé que soy un animal humano.

Many tens of thousands of years ago, the first humans, like us, inhabited the Earth. First they lived in Africa, and then, as the landscape changed and the climate allowed, they populated other continents. Our planet was very different then. Nature ruled. The world was full of huge animals - such as mammoths, wildebeests and rhinos - that traveled in large herds searching for food across vast expanses of territory. We lived in small groups, and we also moved from one place to another according to the seasons and the availability of food. We were not many back then: just a few million humans, just one species that lived among others. Now we are billions and, instead, there are much fewer wild animals and plants. We leave some evidence of our lives in our wake. But a good part of what we did and how we were has been lost. What we do know is that we lived as part of nature, and that much of what we did then has made us who we are today. I often think of this lost world and feel as though I miss it. Human nature comes from our place in nature. Today we may have airplanes, smartphones, and space travel; but our emotions, bodies and minds were designed for an earlier time. Sometimes I feel a voice coming from that forgotten part of my mind; an instinct or understanding that I can barely half remember, and then I know that I am a human animal.

Fragmentos de pequeña figura masculina articulada en Brno, República Checa. Hecha con marfil de mamut.

Aproximadamente 26.000 años de antigüedad.

Fragments of small articulated male figure in Brno, Czech Republic. Made with mammoth ivory.

Approximately 26,000 years old.

La venus de Hohle Fels, hallada en Alemania. Hecha con marfil de mamut.

Entre 35.000 y 40.000 años de antigüedad.

The Venus of Hohle Fels, found in Germany. Made with mammoth ivory.

Between 35,000 and 40,000 years old.

Anzuelos para pescar hechos con astas. Hallados en la cueva de Courbet, Francia.

Aproximadamente 12.500 años de antigüedad.

Hooks for fishing made with antlers. Found in the Courbet cave, France. Approximately 12,500 years old.

La flauta más antigua conocida. Hallada en la cueva Hohle Fels, en Alemania. Hecha con hueso de ala de buitre. Al menos 35.000 años de antigüedad.

The oldest known flute. Found in the Hohle Fels cave in Germany. Made with vulture wing bone.

At least 35,000 years old.

El caballo de Vogelherd, hallado en Alemania. Hecho con marfil de mamut.

Aproximadamente 35.000 años de antigüedad.

Vogelherd's horse, found in Germany. Made with mammoth ivory. Approximately 35,000 years old.