**Chapter 6**

*Chapter Summary*

Hints of behaviorally modern humans first appear in scattered evidence dating from the Middle Stone Age in Africa. Incised ochre, shell beads, engraved ostrich shells, and simple pendants provide a glimpse of the intellectual and behavioral changes that escalate during the Upper Paleolithic and Late Stone Age. The cultures of the Upper Paleolithic are characterized by the production of blade tools; a broadening of the subsistence base; an increase in the size of some sites, suggesting at least temporary population aggregation; the use of bone, antler, ivory, and shell in tool making; the production of nonutilitarian items, some of which served as items of personal adornment; the extensive use of nonlocal, exotic raw materials; the placement of elaborate grave goods in burials, including items of personal adornment; and the first appearance of artwork, in the form of naturalistic paintings, fanciful sculptures, and engraved bone and antler. In their use of symbols, whether realistic in the case of animals painted on cave walls or abstract in the form of geometric patterns etched into bone or carved into rock, the artists of the Upper Paleolithic and Late Stone Age were behaving in such a way to produce abundant evidence of a modern human intellect.