

Chapter 1

GEOGRAPHY

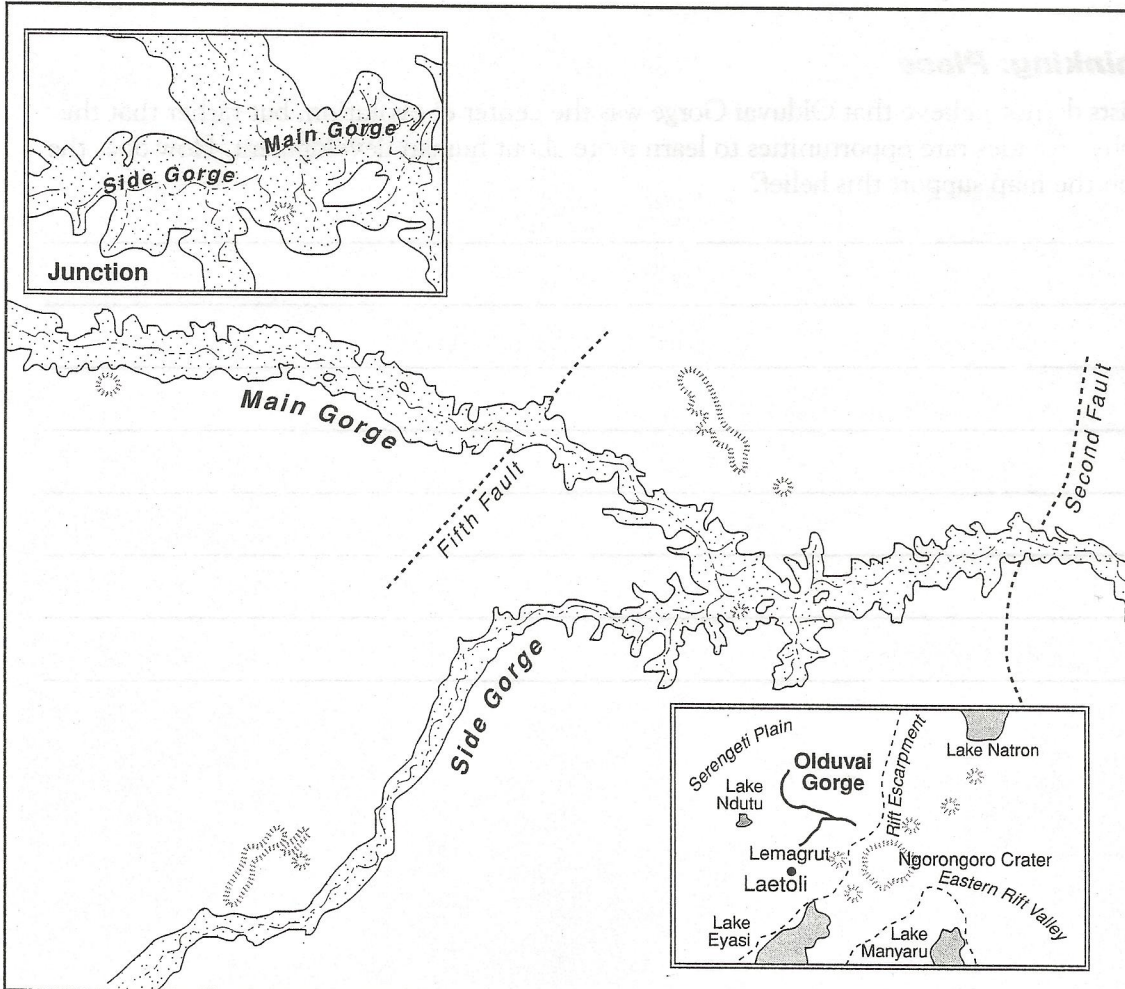
ACTIVITY

The Rise of Civilization

Anthropology and Geology

According to tradition, a butterfly collector was chasing a butterfly in rural Tanganyika—now Tanzania—in 1911 when he nearly fell over the edge of a 300-foot cliff. The cliff turned out to be the edge of Olduvai Gorge, where scholars such as Louis and Mary Leakey, Donald Johanson, and Maurice Taieb later made many discoveries about the evolution of humans. Most of the fossils found at Olduvai Gorge have been near the junction of the Main Gorge and the Side Gorge. The large map shows a view of the two gorges, while one inset shows a detailed view of the junction of the gorges and the other shows Olduvai Gorge in relation to surrounding geological features in northern Tanzania.

Olduvai Gorge



Chapter 1, Geography Activity, continued ►

1. In what plain does Olduvai Gorge lie?

2. Where is Laetoli in relation to Olduvai Gorge?

3. How might the earthquake faults around Olduvai Gorge affect fossil discoveries?

4. How might Lemagrut, an extinct volcano, have affected the development of fossil beds at Olduvai Gorge?

Critical Thinking: Place

Anthropologists do not believe that Olduvai Gorge was the center of evolution, but rather that the area's geography provides rare opportunities to learn more about human development. How does the information on the map support this belief?
