

# Human Origins: Early Humans

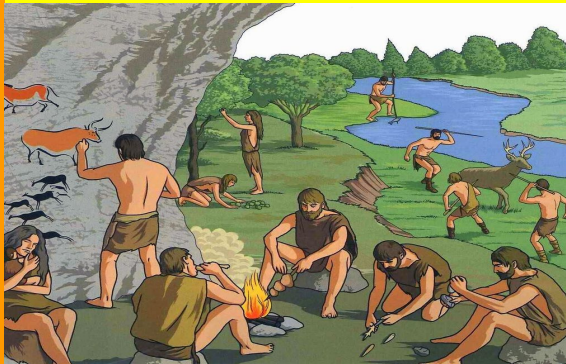
# Topic Preview: The Croods

Watch the trailer and list as many words or examples as you can that describe what life as a hominid was like.



# THE BEGINNING

WHAT IS THE  
TIME BEFORE  
WRITTEN  
RECORD  
CALLED?



- **Prehistory:** is a time before written records were kept.
- Everything we know about this time is due to evidence left behind & stories passed down.
  - ◆ **THINK:** What happens to stories that are told many times?
- Life during this time was about **survival:**
  - ◆ Provide for your basic needs: water, food, shelter
  - ◆ All resources came from the **land & animals**
  - ◆ Inventions during this time led the way for future generations

# THE FIRST HOMINID

## WHO WAS THE FIRST HOMINID?

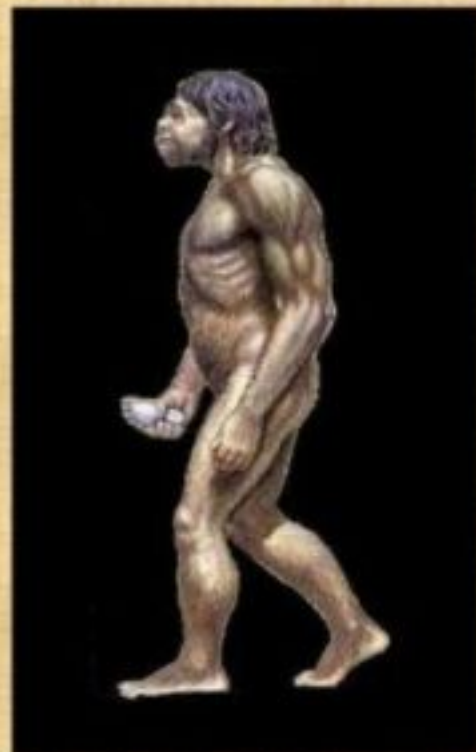


- In 1974 archaeologist discovered a skeleton of a hominid in Africa. As the scientist were celebrating their discovery. The song "LUCY in the sky with diamonds" by the Beatles came on.
- They named her LUCY
  - ◆ The bones were those of a female, about 20 years old or so when she died.
  - ◆ She lived more than 3 million years.
  - ◆ Lucy was small and walked on two legs.

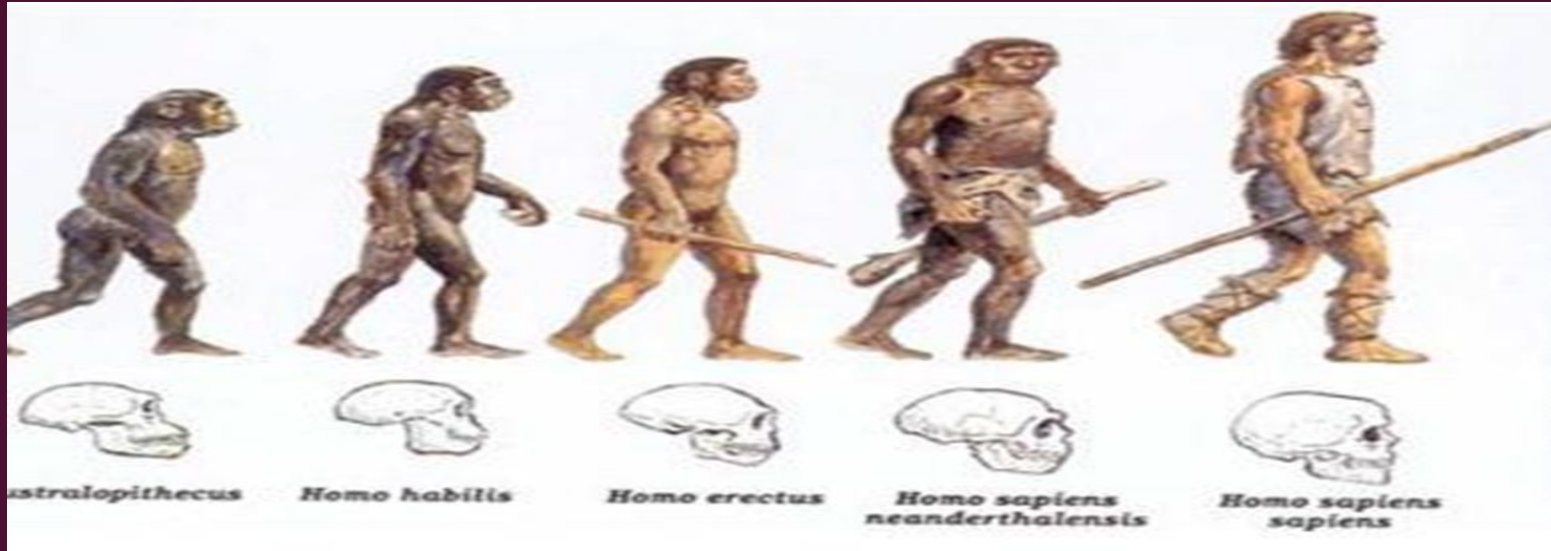


## 3,000,000 Years Ago...Early Humans

- It was during this time that the higher primates, including apes and early man, first appeared.
- There was a difference between apes and man. Early human-like hominids could stand upright. Apes could not.
- Hominids are humans and other creatures that walk upright on two feet.



# EARLY HUMANS

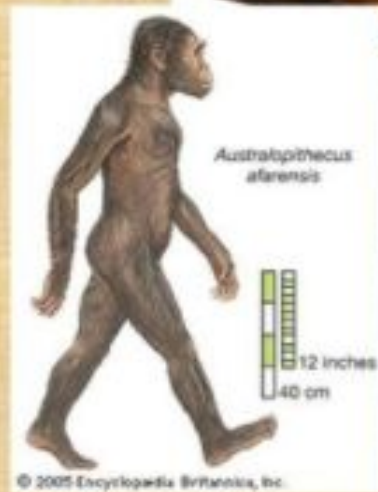


## Discussion Questions:

1. Look from left to right. What is changes over time as hominids developed?
2. Did they get stronger or weaker over time? How do you know this?

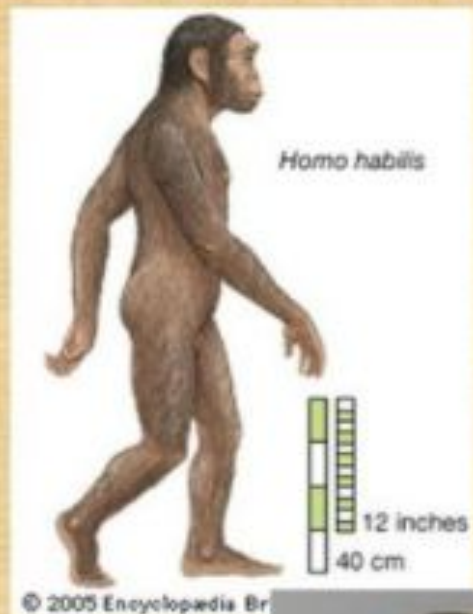
# AUSTROLOPITHECUS

- The first Hominids, they are thought to have emerged in East Africa in the Great Rift Valley between 3-4 million years ago.
- Name means “southern ape”
- Stood upright and walked on two legs
- Brain was about one-third the size of modern humans



# Homo Habilis

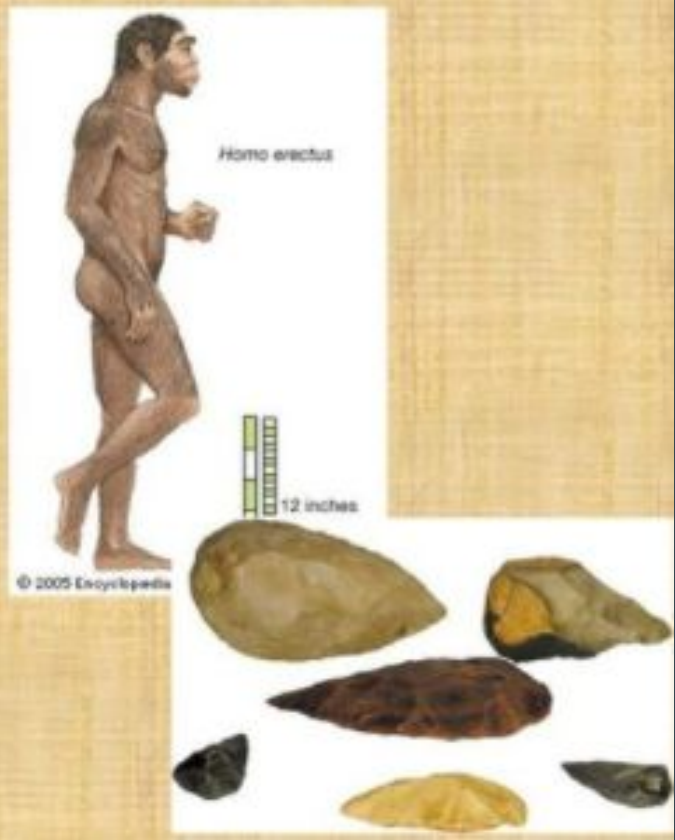
- Name means “handy man”
- Appeared in Africa about 2.4 million years ago
- Used early stone tools for chopping and scraping
- Brain was about half the size of modern humans





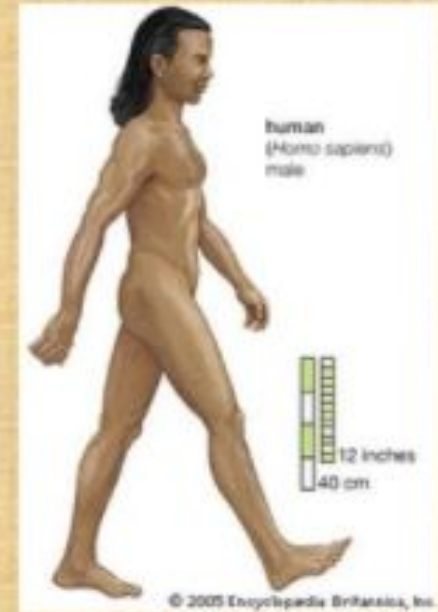
# HOMO ERECTUS

- Name means “upright man”
- Appeared in Africa 2-1.5 million years ago.
- They also used more complex tools (a handheld object that has been modified to help a person accomplish a task)
- Learned to control fire
- Migrated out of Africa to Asia and Europe



# HOMO SAPIENS

- Name means "Wise Man."
- Appeared in Africa about 200,000 years ago
- Migrated around the world
- Same species as modern human beings
- Learned to create fire and use a wide variety of tools
- Developed language

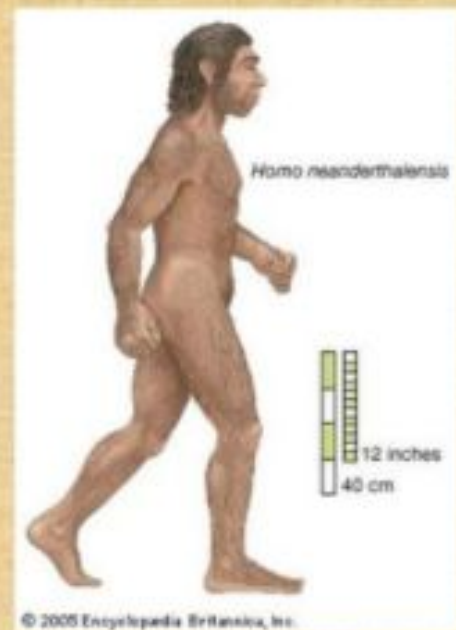


Neanderthal & Home Sapiens Sapiens

- This group split into two distinct groups:

# NEANDERTHALS

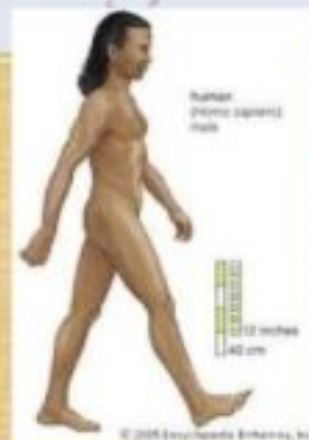
- Found in the Neander Valley in Germany.
- Thought to have lived between 100,000 and 30,000 years ago.
- Used stone tools, and buried their dead. It is thought they had some primitive religious beliefs.
- Were killed off by Homo Sapiens Sapiens





# HOMO SAPIENS SAPIENS

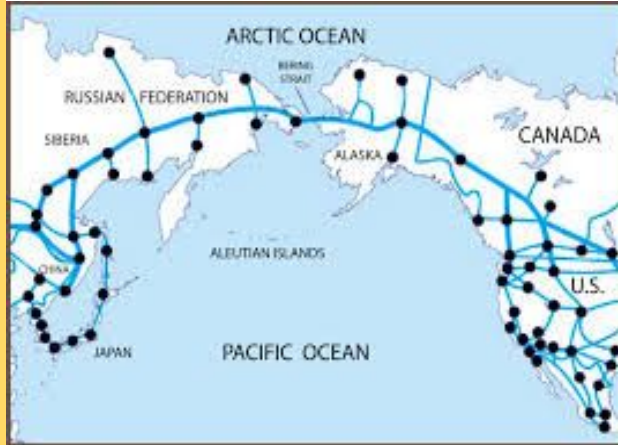
- Modern Human Beings
- Appeared in Africa between 150,000-200,000 years ago
- Began to migrate outside of Africa 100,000 years ago.
- Replaced the Neanderthals by 30,000 B.C.
- By 10,000 B.C. Homo Sapiens Sapiens could be found throughout the world due to migration.





# SPREADING OUT

## WHAT ALLOWED EARLY HUMANS TO REACH THE AMERICAS?



- ❑ During the Ice Age people were forced to **move**
  - ❑ They had to **follow** their food source (animals)
  - ❑ They wanted to find warmer climate
- ❑ All **water** levels lowered due to freezing.
  - ❑ Land that was under water was now above
  - ❑ Frozen water allowed early humans to walk on water
- ❑ Early humans spread to **Europe**, Asia, Australia (Oceania), and the Americas
  - ❑ The land bridge that connected Asia to North America is called the **Bering Strait**.
  - ❑ Early humans were able to travel all the way to South America
    - ❑ This was the **last** continent reached

# Life in the Old Stone Age

## WHAT IS THE OLD STONE AGE CALLED?



- ❖ The old stone age is called the **Paleolithic Era**
- ❖ Early humans were **nomadic** constantly moving from place to place searching for food, water, and shelter.
- ❖ **All about this era**→
  - **USED SIMPLE STONE TOOLS MADE FROM ANIMAL BONES OR ROCKS**
  - **LIVED IN SMALL NUMBERS 20-30 PEOPLE**
  - **LEARNED TO CONTROL FIRE TO KEEP WARM & COOK FOOD**
  - **MEN HUNTED AND WOMEN GATHERED FOOD**
  - **USED CAVE PAINTINGS FOR COMMUNICATION**

# LIFE IN THE NEW STONE AGE

WHAT IS THE  
new stone  
age  
CALLED?



- THE NEW STONE AGE IS CALLED THE NEOLITHIC ERA
- EARLY HUMANS SPREAD OUT AROUND THE WORLD BECAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE (ICE AGE).
- ALL ABOUT THIS ERA → **Development of Agriculture & Fire**
  - Used COMPLEX stone tools that were smaller
  - Started to settle in areas around the world & stopped moving around
  - Learned to farm food from seeds
  - Made pottery and used it as storage
  - Crops were stored in pits and clay pots
  - Used animals to help them with chores
  - Fire kept them warm & gave them the ability to cook food

# Early Humans Video

Watch the video. Use the notes collected to answer the video questions.



## Movement (Travel)

Where did the early humans begin and where did they move to? List places discussed in the video.

## RIVERS

Why were the rivers important to the early humans? List Rivers discussed in the video.

## Climate

What was the climate like during the time of the early humans? List different types of climate the early humans faced.

## Push/Pull Factors

Why were the early humans constantly moving? List reasons that pull and pushed them.



# CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Answer the following questions on your guided notes!

1. Where are the first humans believed to have originated from?
2. Who are hunter-gatherers?
3. What caused the migration of humans out of Africa? Was this forced or voluntary migration?
4. Who are the scientists that study the human remains in Africa?
5. How did early humans use to migrate to North America and South America?
6. What challenges did people face migrating 125,000 years ago?
  - [THINK ABOUT: climate, basic needs, safety]
7. Given the high risk of migrating, was it worth taking a chance and migrating anyways?