

ORIGIN OF MODERN HUMANS



Paleoanthropology: How Old Is the Oldest Human?

Jean-Jacques Hublin



Figure 1. The LD 350-1 mandible in hands of its discoverer, Chalachew Seyoum. The Ledi-Geraru area provides an invaluable material documenting a critical period of hominin evolution for which the East African fossil record is still very scarce. (Photo credit: Brian Vilmore)

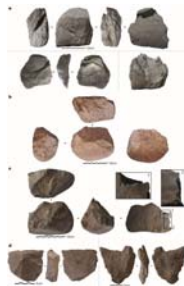
A 2.8 Ma old mandible unearthed in Ethiopia fills the gap between ape-like australopithecines and representatives of the genus *Homo*. It pushes the origin of large-brained hominins further back in time and highlights the complexity of the human evolutionary tree.

Current Biology 25, R448-R469, June 1, 2015

Cut marks in bone
3.4 mya



Stone tools
3.3 mya

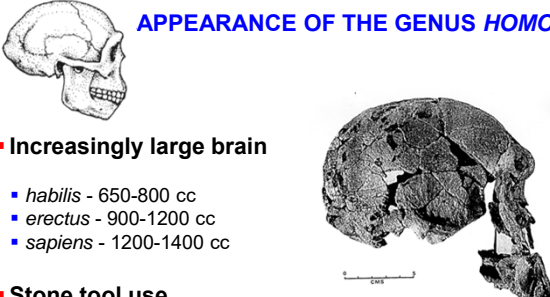


Harmand et al. *Nature* 521, 310-315 (2015)



Oldowan tools
2.6 - 1.5 mya

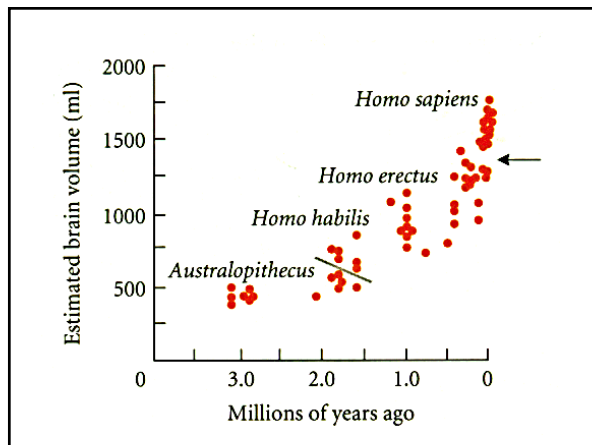
Figs. 17.13 & 17.14 Z&E



APPEARANCE OF THE GENUS *HOMO*

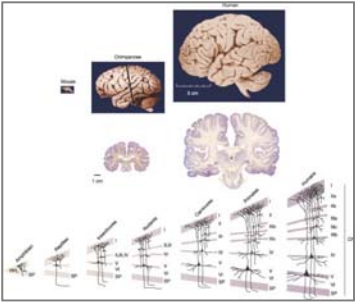
- Increasingly large brain
 - habilis* - 650-800 cc
 - erectus* - 900-1200 cc
 - sapiens* - 1200-1400 cc
- Stone tool use
- Number of biological species???

Homo habilis 1.9 mya



Molecular insights into human brain evolution

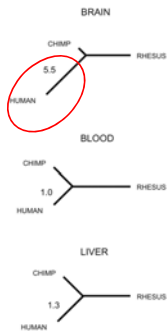
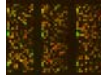
Robert Sean Hill and Christopher A. Walsh



Differences in cerebral cortical size are associated with differences in the cerebral cortex circuit diagram.

Nature 437, 64-67 (1 September 2005)

Intra- and Interspecific Variation in Primate Gene Expression Patterns



- Enard et al. used an AFFIMETRIX gene chip with 12,000 human genes to analyze differences in expression patterns among 3 primates.
- No significant differences were noted in blood or liver assays **BUT** large differences were observed in brain expression patterns.
- Rapid evolution of gene expression patterns in the human brain.**

FROM: Enard et al., *Science* April 12, 2002 296:340-343

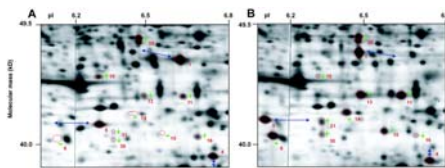


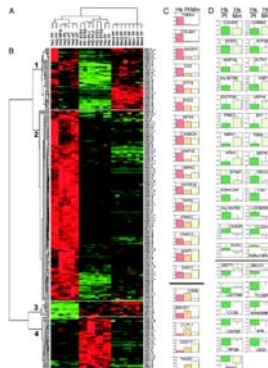
Table 1. Brain protein pattern differences between humans and chimpanzees as analyzed by 2D gel electrophoresis. Differences between humans and chimpanzees were scored if confirmed in three individual human-chimpanzee pairs and were analyzed in the same way as in a larger mouse study comparing *M. musculus* and *M. spretus*. **Qualitative differences** represent changes in electrophoretic mobility of spots, which likely result from amino acid substitutions, whereas **quantitative differences** reflect changes in the amount of protein.

Comparison	Analyzed spots	Differences	
		Qualitative	Quantitative
Human-chimpanzee	538	41 (7.6%)	169 (31.4%)
<i>M. musculus</i> - <i>M. spretus</i>	8767	668 (7.6%)	656 (7.5%)

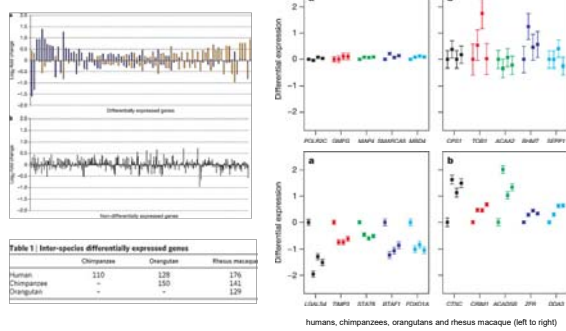
FROM: Enard et al., *Science* April 12, 2002 296:340-343

Elevated gene expression levels distinguish human from non-human primate brains

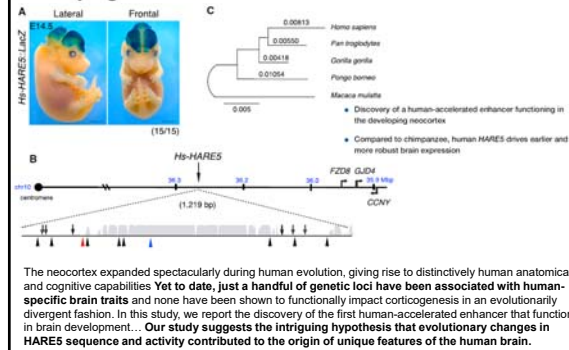
Caceres *et al.* (*PNAS* 2003) identified 169 genes that exhibited gene expression differences between human and chimpanzee lineages. 91 of these genes differentiated in the human lineage. **Most differences involved up-regulation with higher expression levels humans.**

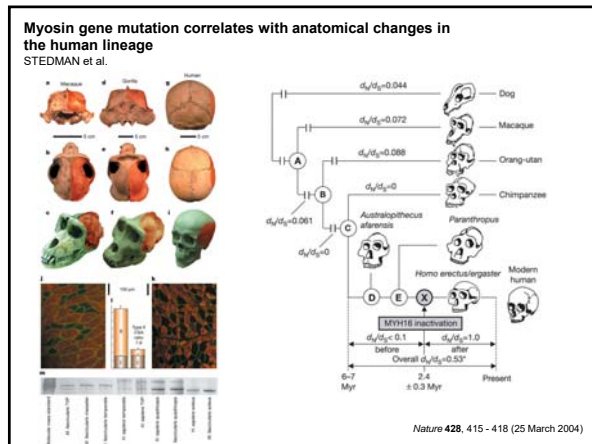


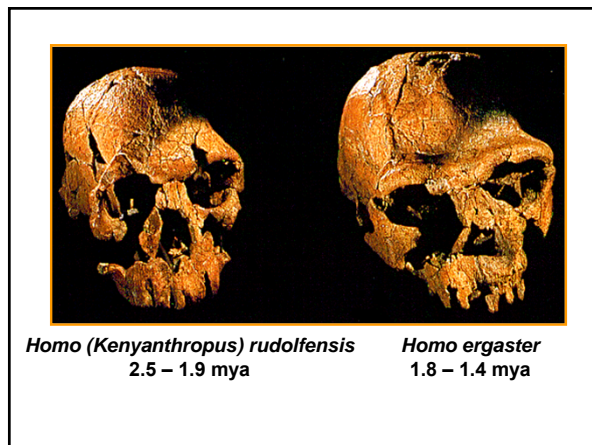
Expression profiling in primates reveals a rapid evolution of human transcription factors
Yoav Glad et al.

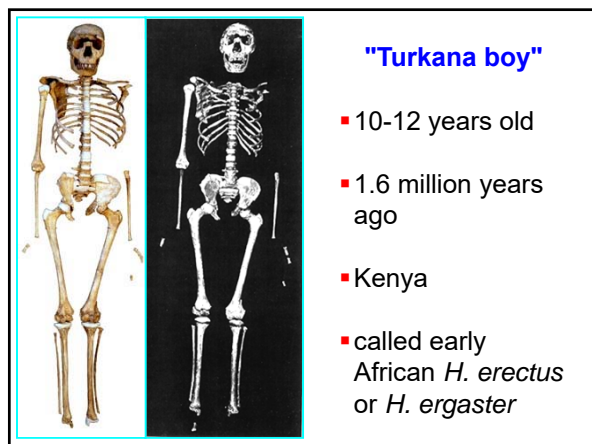


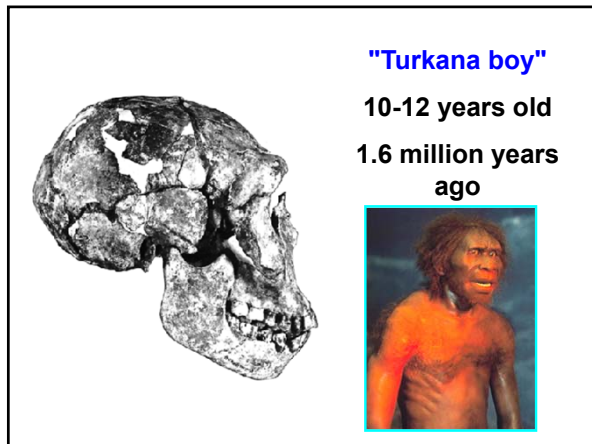
Human-Chimpanzee Differences in a *FZD8* Enhancer Alter Cell-Cycle Dynamics in the Developing Neocortex (Boyd et al. 2015)



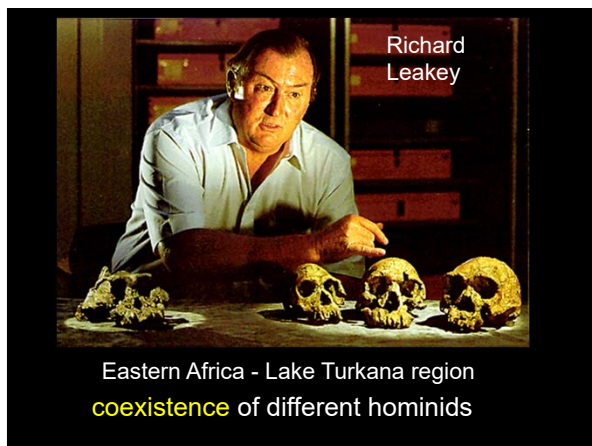






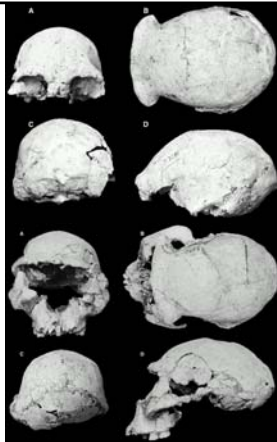






DMANISI, REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

- 1.7 mya
- Shortly after the origin of *Homo*, there is a migration out of Africa.



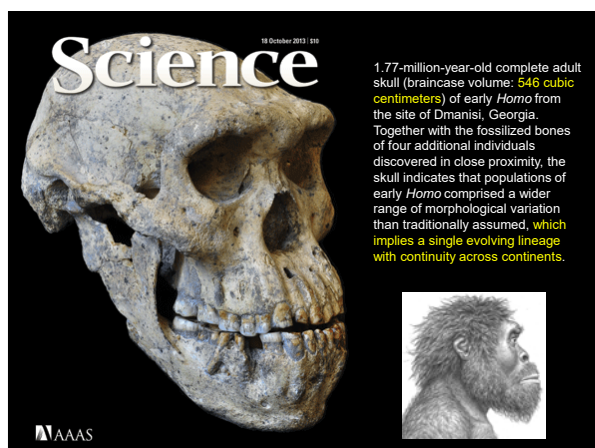
DMANISI STONE TOOLS



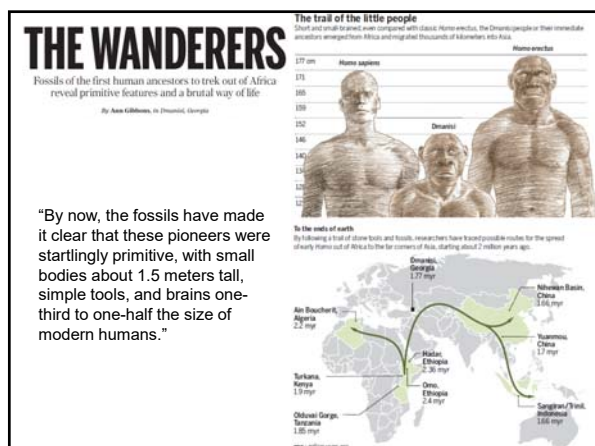


clearly not close to anatomically modern *H. sapiens* - like Turkana boy









First migration out of Africa did not include the modern human lineage



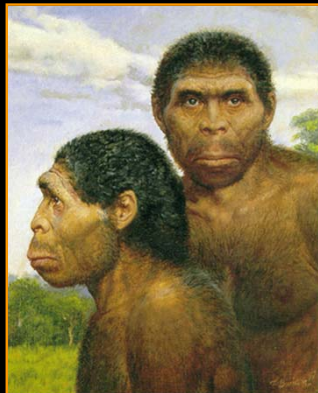
Asian *Homo erectus*



"Java Man"
0.75 mya

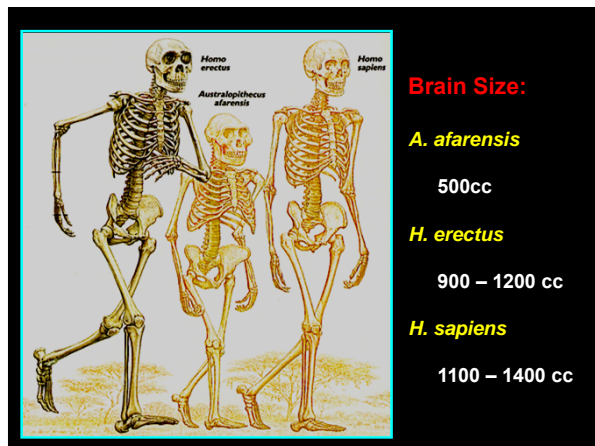


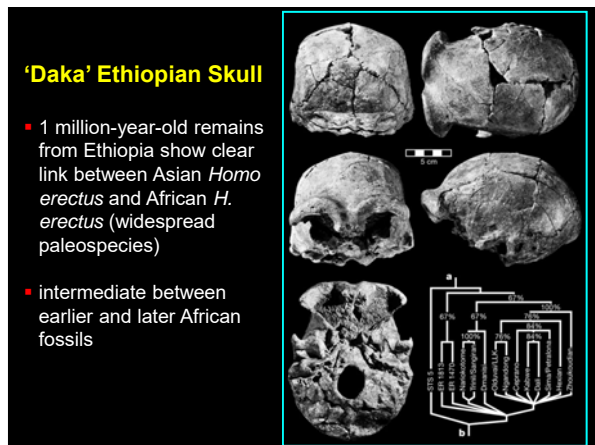
Peking Man
China
0.77 mya

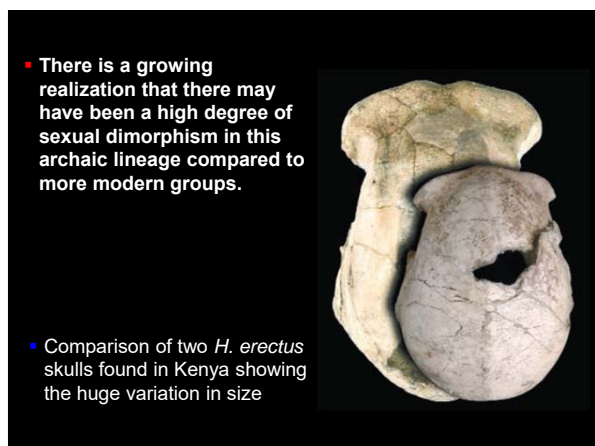


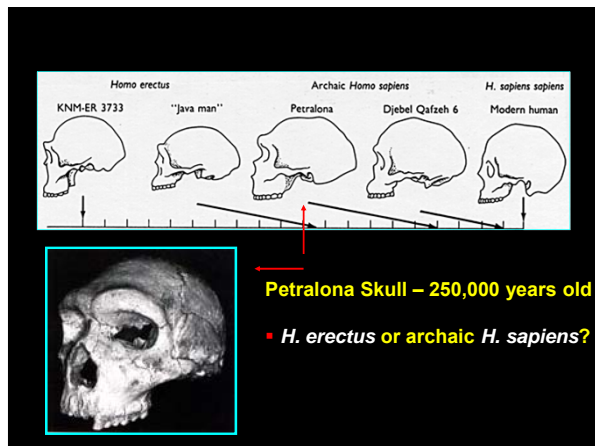
RECONSTRUCTION of Indonesian

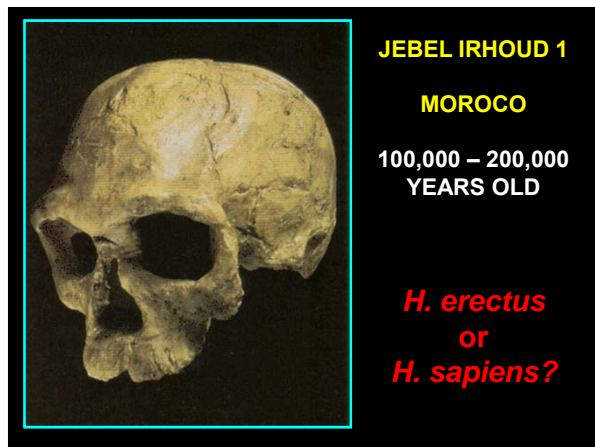
H. erectus

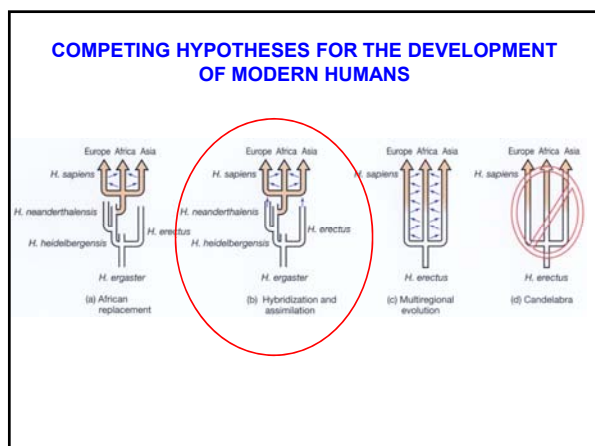










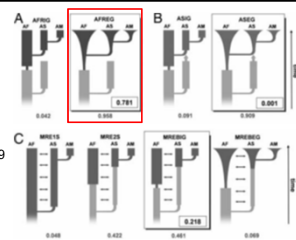


COMPETING HYPOTHESES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN HUMANS

- **Multiregional model:** archaic *H. sapiens* (or *H. erectus*) dispersed throughout the Old World and simultaneously evolved to modern form with abundant gene flow.
- **Replacement Model (Out – of– Africa):** single group that relatively recently dispersed from Africa, evolved into modern form and replaced all archaic forms, including Neanderthals.
- **Hybridization & Assimilation Model:** This model suggests that archaic lineages spread out from Africa early, followed later by a second wave of dispersal from a more derived lineage. Some amount of hybridization accompanied the replacement of the archaic lineages.

Statistical evaluation of alternative models of human evolution

Fangundes et al. 2007 PNAS 17614-17619

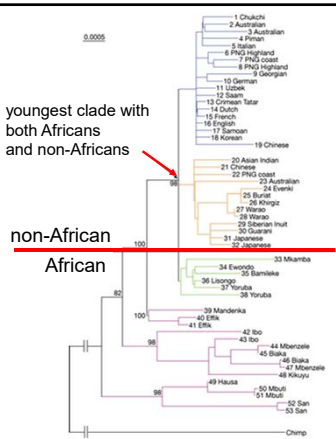


Using DNA data from **50 nuclear loci** sequenced in African, Asian and Native American samples... **a simple African replacement model with exponential growth has a higher probability (78%) as compared with alternative multiregional evolution or assimilation scenarios.** A Bayesian analysis of the data under this best supported model points to an origin of our species **141 thousand years ago (Kya), an exit out-of-Africa 51 Kya, and a recent colonization of the Americas 10.5 Kya.** We also find that the African replacement model explains not only the shallow ancestry of mtDNA or Y-chromosomes but also the occurrence of deep lineages at some autosomal loci, which has been formerly interpreted as a sign of interbreeding with *Homo erectus*.

Recent comparisons of **ENTIRE** mtDNA genome indicate a recent (0.2 mya), African origin of anatomically modern humans.

youngest clade with both Africans and non-Africans

non-African
African



WHAT ABOUT NEANDERTHALS???

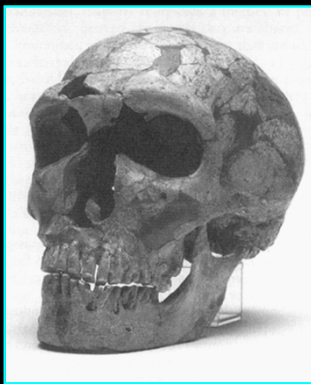


H. sapiens neanderthalensis
50,000 years ago
France



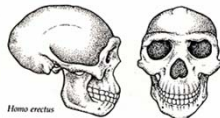
H. sapiens sapiens
Present

- Neanderthal fossils are found from 400,000 to about 30,000 years ago in Europe and western Asia.



50,000 year old skull from La Ferassie, France

Homo erectus



Homo erectus

Homo neanderthalensis

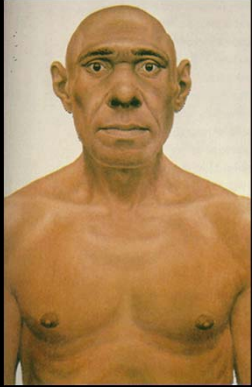


Homo neanderthalensis

Homo sapiens




Homo sapiens

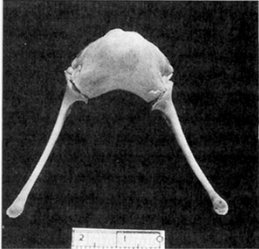



RECONSTRUCTION BASED ON SKULLS FROM SHANIDAR CAVE IN IRAQ

- Prominent brow ridge
- Large bulbous nose
- Powerful build
- Possible advanced culture: sophisticated tools, burials, language?




HYOID BONES CLOSELY RESEMBLE MODERN HUMANS

Chimpanzee

Neanderthal

Sympatry *H. neanderthalensis* and *H. sapiens*



Ancient DNA samples from *H. neanderthalensis*

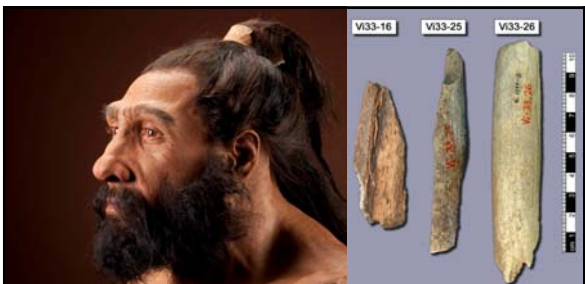
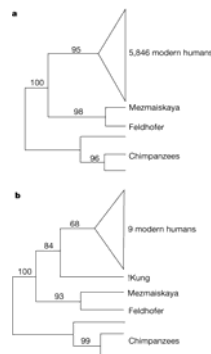


Krause et al. *Nature* 449, 902-904 (18 October 2007)

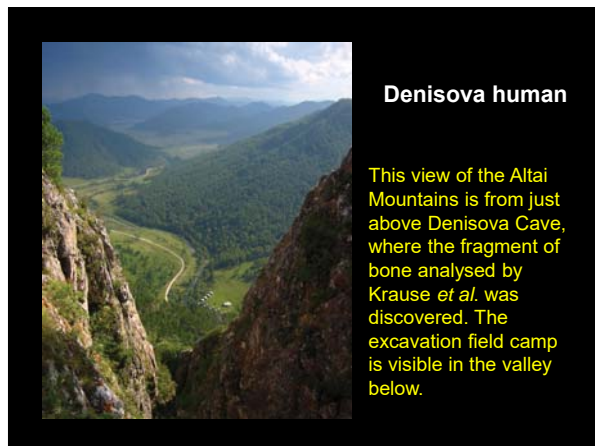
mtDNA SEQUENCE ANALYSIS FROM NEANDERTHAL BONE (>30,000 YEARS OLD)

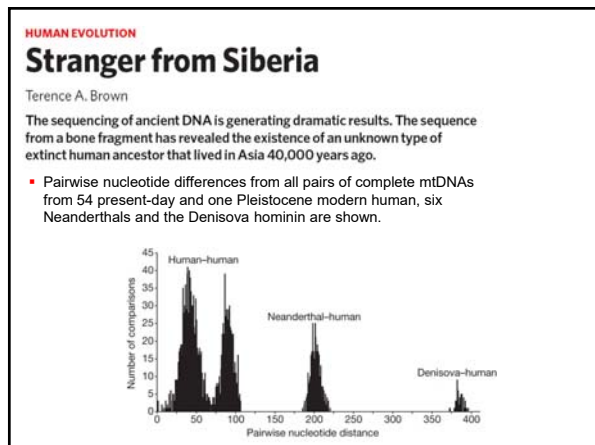
■ Neanderthal sequences are 3 times as divergent from modern human sequences than are the most divergent modern humans.

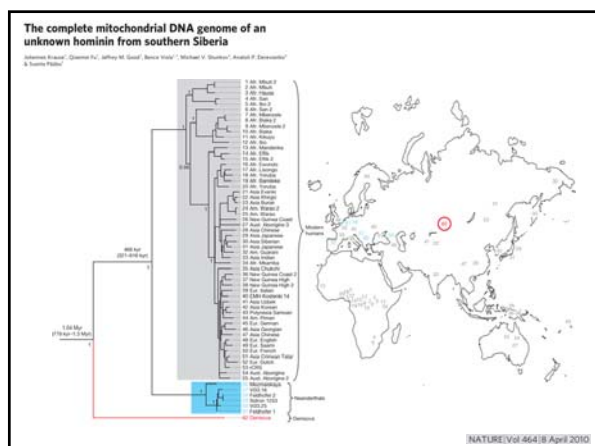
■ It is unlikely that Neanderthals were assimilated into human populations.



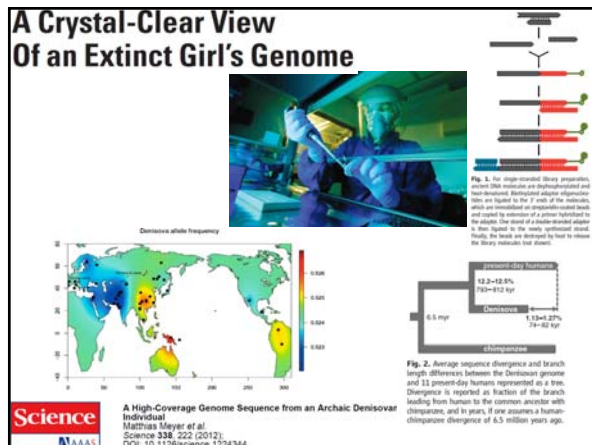
1% to 4% of the DNA of Europeans and Asians, but not of Africans, was shared with Neandertals and concluded that modern humans interbred with Neandertals at low levels (*Science*, 7 May 2010, pp. 680, 710)

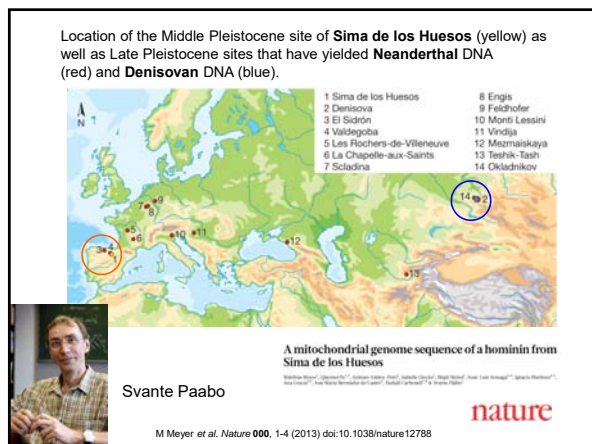


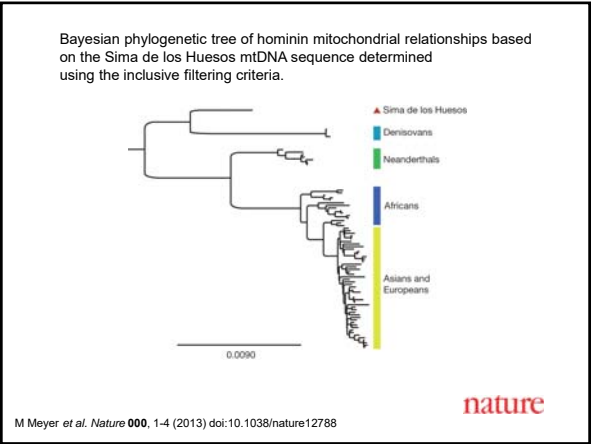


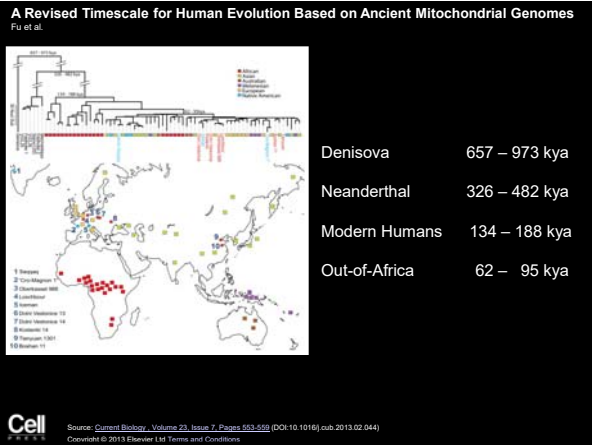


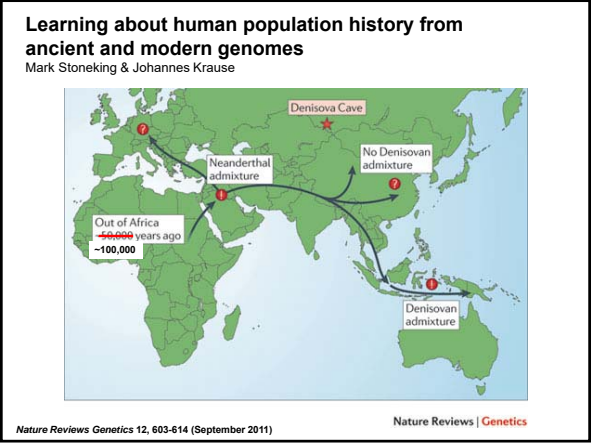












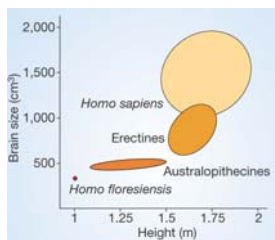
Palaeoanthropology: Human evolution writ small

We are the only living species of the genus *Homo*. Given the startling results of a cave excavation in Southeast Asia, it seems that we coexisted with another species until much more recently than had been thought.

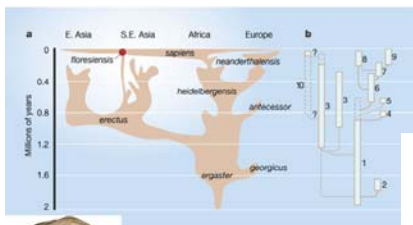


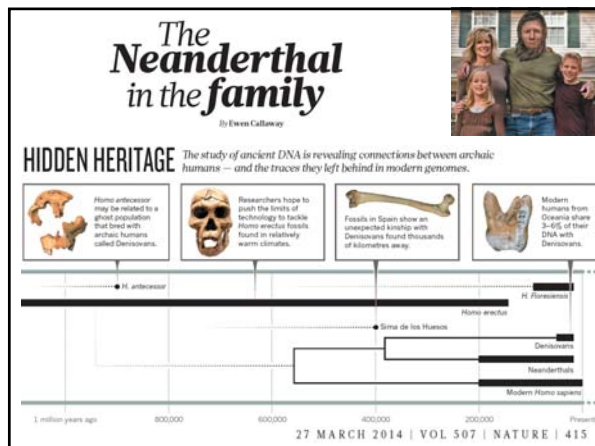


Tools associated with *H. floresiensis*



Co-occurrence of *H. sapiens* and *H. erectus* as recently as 19,000 years ago?





Neanderthals had outsized effect on human biology

From skin disorders to the immune system, sex with archaic species changed Homo sapiens.

A small, but significant, portion of modern human genomes has roots in archaic forms.

- Europeans and Asians have 2–4% Neanderthal DNA.
- Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians have up to 5% Denisovan DNA.

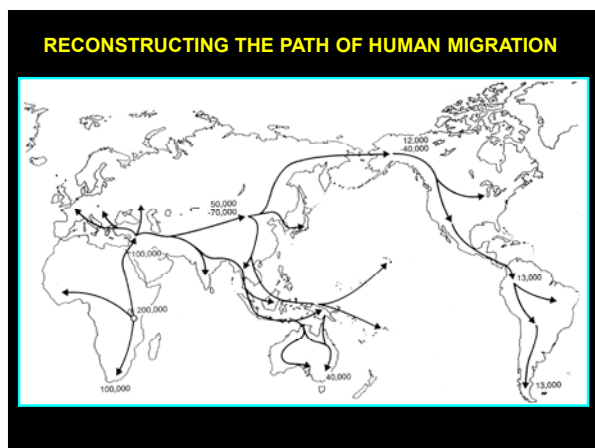
A number of phenotypic traits are associated with these archaic genes including an increased or decreased risk of:

- Osteoporosis, blood-coagulation disorders, Nicotine addiction, depression, obesity skin disorders

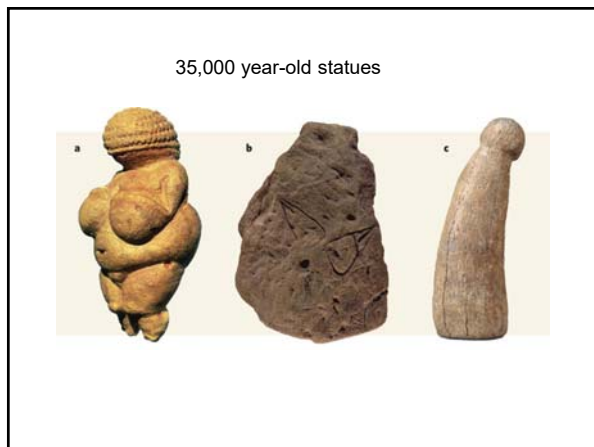
Specific genes include:

- Toll-like receptors involved in immunity (Neanderthals & Denisovans)
- EPAS1 involved in high altitude adaptation (Denisovans)

A gene variant from archaic humans helps modern-day Tibetans to cope with high altitudes.

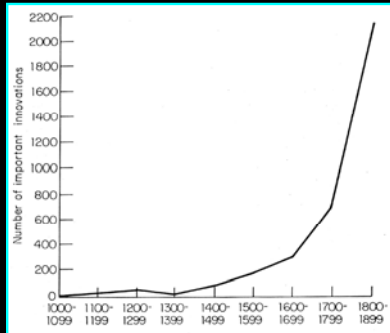








RAPID INCREASE IN TECHNOLOGY, ART, AND MUSIC DEMONSTRATES CULTURAL EVOLUTION IN MODERN HUMANS.



HUMANS ARE UNIQUE IN THEIR EXTREMELY HIGH RATE OF CULTURAL EVOLUTION

- To what extent is an interaction between cultural evolution and phenotypic evolution possible?

