

Understanding the origins of man - World History Unit 1
(Use pages 2-11 in *World History - Human Legacy*)

- 1) Hominids are a family of bi-pedal primates. Australopithecine, Homo Habilis, Homo Erectus, Homo Sapiens are all members of this family. All of the hominids on this list are now extinct except for:

- 2) Hominids have several notable skills, such as standing upright on two legs and also the opposable thumb. What advantages would each of these skills provide Hominids?
- 3) According to the map, in what specific region of the world are the oldest hominid fossils found?
- 4) There is evidence in Asia that Homo Erectus was the first hominid to leave Africa. What special skill/knowledge did Homo Erectus have that may have allowed him to leave Africa? _____
- 5) The next hominid to leave Africa was Homo Sapien. There were sub-groups known as Neanderthals and Cro-Magnons. (Note: Some scientists dispute whether Neanderthals really belong in the Homo Sapien group or not.) What one special skill did Homo Sapiens develop that probably allowed them to travel further and leave Africa? _____

6) Neanderthals eventually died out. They were very physically sturdy, and were mainly in Europe and Asia, and arrived in Europe before Cro-Magnons. New research suggests that Cro-Magnons (our predecessors) would have lived side-by-side with Neanderthals in Europe, sharing culture and sexual relations, for several thousand years, until Neanderthals died out. Researchers used to believe that they were killed off by Cro-Magnons, but today it is believed that they were showing signs of a lack of genetic diversity long before Cro-Magnons arrived. Why do you think a species showing a lack of genetic diversity would lead to their going extinct?

7) Scientists do not know for sure why Homo Sapiens moved out of Africa. Always remember they did not all leave, and not all at the same time. Check out the map on pg. 9. The red arrows show the paths that Homo Sapiens seem to have followed. Notice they did not head very far north. Why do you suppose they avoided heading north? (2 reasons)

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8) Which were the last two continents visited by Homo Sapiens, and why?

9) This period from the first Hominids (about 2.5 million years ago) until about 10,000 BCE is called the “Old Stone Age,” also known as the _____ Era.

10) During the Old Stone Age people moved from place to place, following migrating animals and seasonal food supplies. This is known as living as _____.

11) What were the different roles of women and men during this period?

12) Based on what you know about this lifestyle, do you think Stone Age humans lived in large groups or small? About how many do you imagine they might have had in each group?

13) When talking about history, what does the word “technology” mean?

14) What are some early technologies that Stone Age man would have had?

- 15) By definition, the word 'history' indicates a period of writing, so everything before there was writing is known as the 'prehistoric period.' Even though they didn't have actual writing, prehistoric man did create art. What are three purposes/reasons they may have had for creating art?
- 16) Even though they were prehistoric people, these Homo Sapiens appear to have had spiritual beliefs. How can we know this (other than in their artwork) if they didn't write things down?