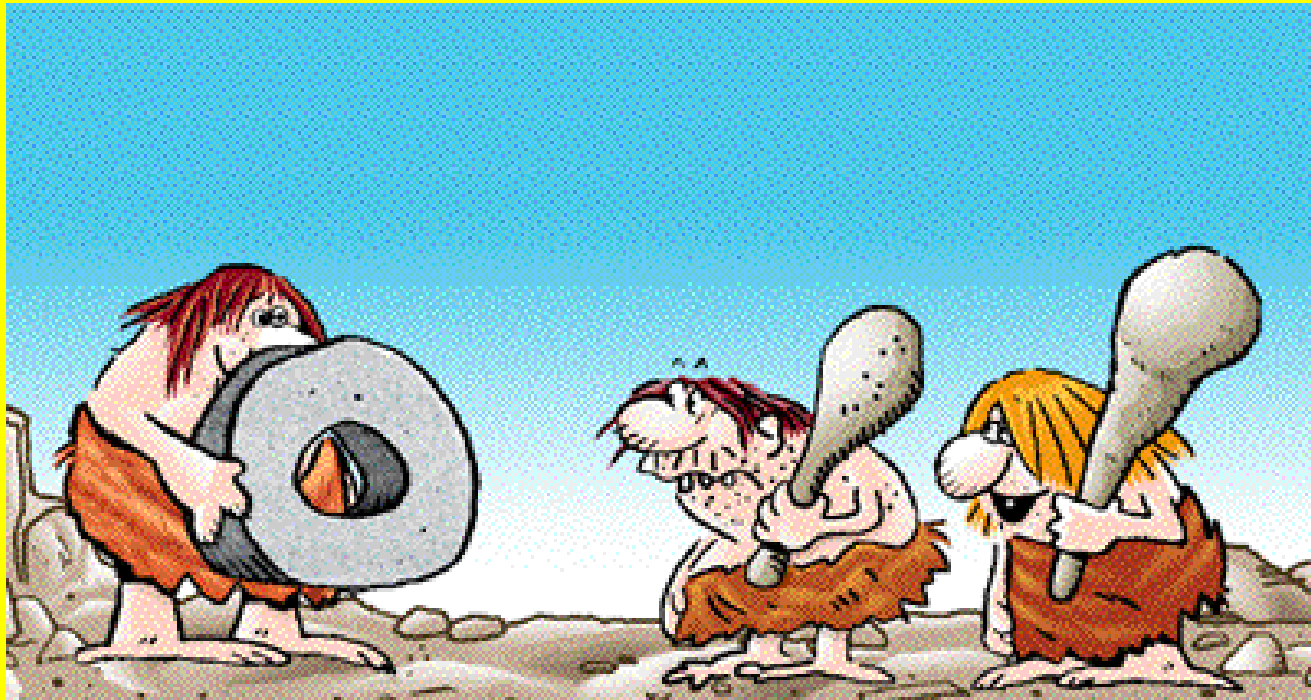


Era 1
The Beginnings of
Human Society

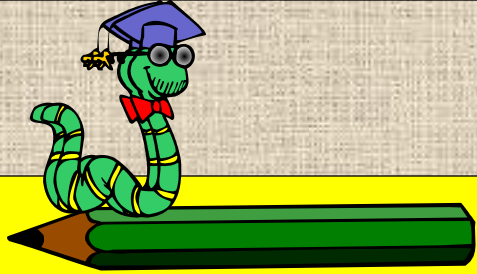


Blueprint Skill: History Grade 7



In the first era of human history, people spread throughout the world. As communities of hunters, foragers, or fishers, they adapted creatively and continually to a variety of contrasting, changing environments in Africa, Eurasia, and Australia.





Humanity's Story

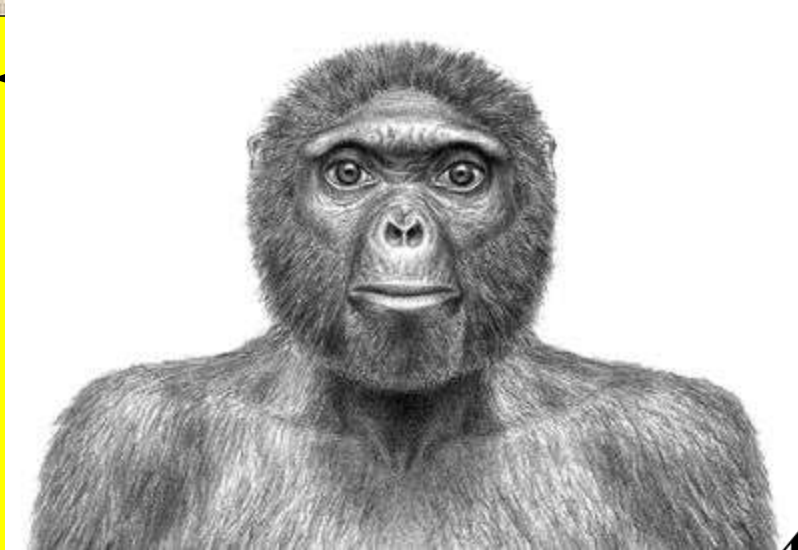
#1 So far as we know, humanity's story began in Africa.

Africa is the cradle or birthplace of humanity-our homeland.

- **For millions of years it was mainly a story of biological change of hominids.**



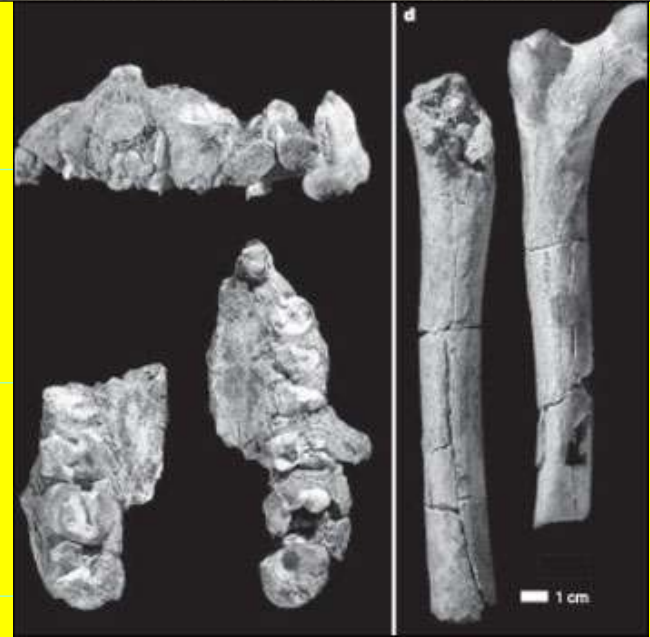
Ardipithecus



Ardipithecus

Meet *Ardipithecus*.

This introduction has been a long time coming. Some 4.4 million years ago, a hominid now known as lived in what were then forests in Ethiopia. Fifteen years ago, Tim White of Berkeley and a team of Ethiopian and American scientists published the first account of *Ardipithecus*, which they had just discovered. But it was just a preliminary report, and White promised more details later, once he and his colleagues had carefully prepared and analyzed all the fossils they had unearthed. “Later,” it turned out, meant 15 years.

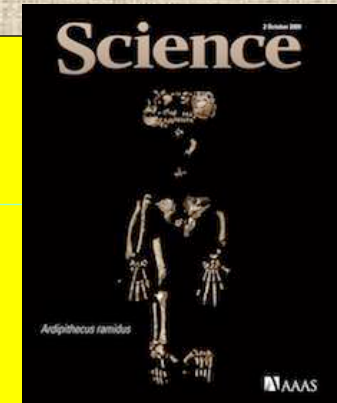
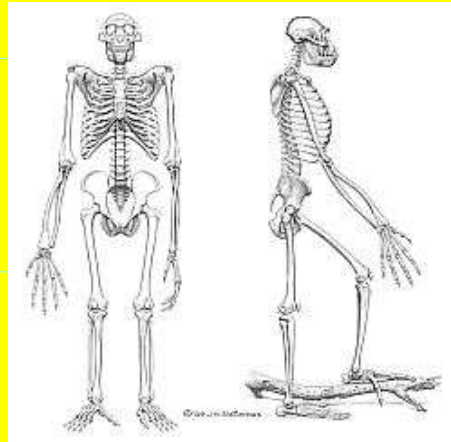


<http://dsc.discovery.com/tv/ardipithecus/ardipithecus.html>

ramidus



The Missing link???



Chimp

Ardipithecus

Afarensis (Lucy)

So here we see the skeleton of a chimp, a front and side view of Ardi, and Lucy aka *Australopithecus afarensis*, roughly to scale (Ardi is just over one-meter or a little over three feet in height). And behold, Ardi has the double curved spine of a hominid, long ape-like arms, while pelvis, legs, and feet are almost perfectly in between. Based on all that, Ardi could walk upright *almost* as well as Lucy, using her arms to carry back goodies from the grassland to her forest enclave. And with those long arms, fingers, and toes, including the partially opposing big toe, she could probably climb *almost* as well as an adult chimp or juvenile gorilla. That's about as good a transitional fossil between a more ape-like, knuckle-walking ancestor and a bipedal hominid like Lucy as you could ask for.

Move over Lucy, Ardipithecus is coming to town!



Bipedal Hominids



Homo Erectus

drawn by Jay H.
Matternes

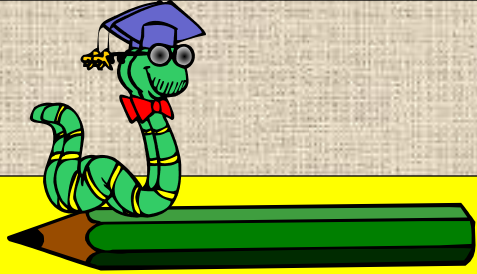


3.6 million old Laetoli
footprints most likely
Australopithecus afarensis

One of the things that emerges from these footprints is confirmation that erect walking on two legs is the distinctly human trait that developed first. For millions of years, our ancestors walked upright — in a way quite close to modern human strides — not in shuffling, bent over, awkward, shaky gaits or knuckle-walking. In fact, it appears (from multiple evidence) that upright walking was one of the first distinctly human traits to emerge — and that upright walking preceded the human brain in the emergence of humans. This is an issue that has been a long focus of debate and investigation.

Homo erectus lived between 1.8 million and 300,000 years ago, and was probably the first hominid species to move out of Africa and colonize Europe and Asia.





Ages

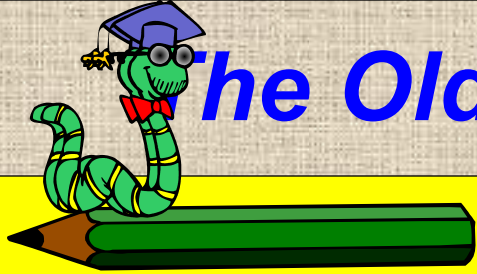
#5 2.5 million to 8000 BCE

Paleolithic (old stone age) -cave art, fire, hominids (earlier human like creatures), stone tools, nomads, hunters and gatherers)

(B.C. E. = Before the Common Era- or before Jesus was born)

▪





The Old Stone Age- Paleolithic Age

#2 The period of time when people used simple stone tools is called the *Old Stone Age* or **Paleolithic Era**.

#6 During the Old Stone Age, people also learned to make fire. How was it useful?



Humanity's Story



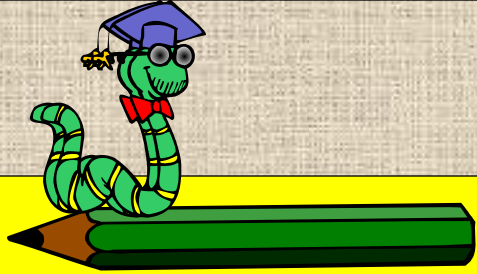
- **Stone tools were the most common tools until about 12,000 years ago.**

hammerstone
from China



Early humans in East Africa used hammerstones to strike stone cores and produce sharp flakes. When these stone flakes were removed from this stone core from, it also created sharp edges. For more than 2 million years, early humans used these tools to cut, pound, crush, and access new foods—including meat and bone marrow from large animals.





Humanity's Story

#3 Eventually they mastered speech.

Unlike most other species, early humans gained the capacity to learn from one another and transmit knowledge from one generation to the next.



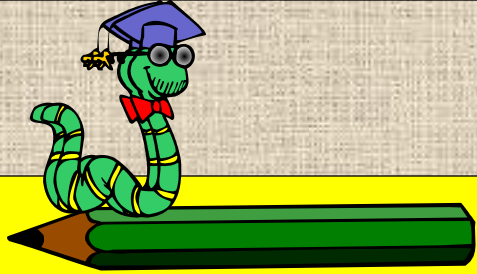
MAIN
MENU



BACK



NEXT



Humanity's Story

#4 The hunter-gatherer society lived in clans and were nomadic.

- Nomadic groups were people who have no fixed home and move according to the seasons from place to place in search of food, water, and grazing land.**



Resources



- World History Standards

Geologic and Biological Timeline of the Earth

DISCOVERY CHANNEL
SCIENCE- magazine

<http://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/oldowan-tools-lokalalei-kenya>

