

# The Land Before Time

Also known as “Pre-History”

# Scientists Study Human Origins

- Anthropologists- Study a people's culture: food, language, religion, music, art
- Archeologists- Study artifacts left behind by people: Tools, Art, Jewelry
- Paleontologists- Study fossils: Bones, teeth, fecal remains

# What is culture?

- The way you dress
- The way you talk
- The food you eat
- The music you listen to
- The things you believe
- The things you enjoy



# Early footprints found

- In the 70's Archeologist Mary Leakey lead an expedition into eastern Africa
- In Tanzania she uncovered fossilized foot prints of australopithecines (a type of **hominid**), dating back to 3 million 600 thousand years ago.
- Hominid = humans and other creatures that walk upright



# “Lucy”

- In Ethiopia Donald Johnson uncovers the most complete hominid dating back 3.5 million years ago.
- The Date was 1974 and he named her Lucy after a popular song of the time



# The old stone age

- The old stone age or the Paleolithic Age lasted from 2.5 million years ago to 8000 B.C.
- A commonly found item of this time period are chopping tools made of stone



# The New Stone Age

- The Neolithic Age, or new stone age, begins around 8,000 B.C. and continues until about 3,000 B.C.
- This time period is characterized by polished tools, pottery, crops, and domesticated plants and animals.
- The domestication of plants and animals is a key point in human history as it represents a shift from hunting and gathering to early agriculture.
- This shift is called the Neolithic revolution (the first agricultural revolution)



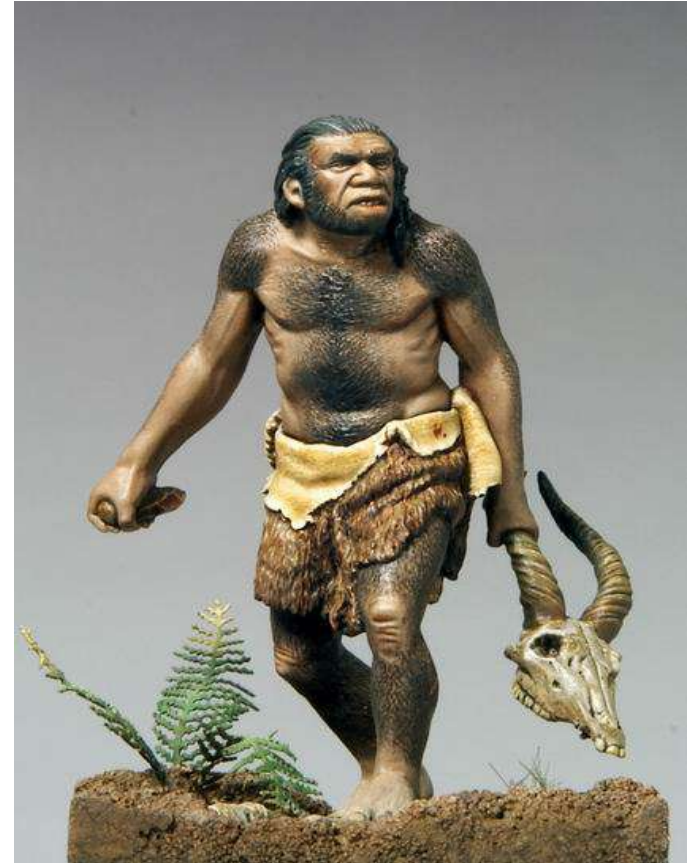
# Hominids

- Australopithecines – 4 million – 1 mil B.C. found in Southern and Eastern Africa, first hominid to walk up right.
- Homo Habilis (man of skill)- 2.5 mya (million years ago) to 1.5 mya. Found in Southern and Eastern Africa, First to make Stone tools
- Homo Erectus (upright man)- 1.6 mya to 30,000 B.C.- Found in Africa, Asia, Europe. First to control fire, used intelligence to improve on tools, may have developed a language
- Homo Sapiens (wise men)= Neanderthals and Cromagnons



# Neanderthals

- 200,000 to 30,000 B.C.
- Found in Europe and Southwest Asia
- First to have burial rituals (Shanidar Cave)
- Cave central to their lives
- Hunters and gatherers



# Cro-Magnons



The Natural History Museum

- 40,000 years ago
- Identical to modern humans
- Advanced spoken language
- Cooperative with one another
- Planned hunts
- Neolithic revolution