ARCHAIC HOMO





1. EARLY HOMO

- 2 MYA: two distinct hominin groups: early Homo and A. boisei
 - Homo evolved into H. erectus by 1.9 m.y.a.
 - generalized subsistence: hunting of large animals, gathering vegetation and scavenging
 - Australopithecus specialized in course and gritty vegetation (490 cm³)



H. RUDOLFENSIS AND H. HABILIS

- H. rudolfensis: KNM-ER 1470 Leakey & Ngeneo, Koobi Foora, 1972 • Brain size 775 cm³, molars like Australopithecus, but no skeleton
 - 2.4 (?) to 1.8 mya
- H. habilis: KNM-ER 1813 Leakey and Kimeo at Koobi Foora, 1973 • Brain size 510 cm³, 1.8-1.9 mya, small, modernish rounded skull
- (OH 24) "Twiggy" 1.8 mya, 590 cm³ Olduvai, 1968
- The only sure conclusion: several different kinds of hominin lived in Africa before and after the advent of *Homo*





lleret, Kenya, finds show that H. habilis and H. erectus overlapped

- H. habilis (1.9-1.44 m.y.a.)
- H. erectus (1.9-.3? m.y.a.)
- 1,000 cm³ cranial capacity
- Sexual dimorphism in H. erectus is greater than expected
- Likely that both share common ancestor, rather than ancestral relationship
- Probably occupied separate ecological niches (hunting)
- Increase in brow ridges and cranial thickness in H. erectus possibly due to increased reliance upon front teeth and protection while hunting larger animals





- Small groups broke off from larger ones
- H. erectus gradually spread and changed



PALEOLITHIC TOOLS

• Paleolithic: Old Stone Age, includes:

- Lower Paleolithic (H. habilis, H.
- erectus)Middle Paleolithic (archaic H.
- Wilddie Paleolitric (archaic *H. sapiens*, including Neandertals)
 Upper Paleolithic (anatomically
- modern humans)
- Acheulean: associated with *H. erectus*
- Hand axes
 - Advanced over pebble tools
 greater efficiency, manufacture of tools for specific tasks, more complex technology





FIGURE 9.1 Evolution in Toolmaking.

Finds at Olduvai Gorge and elsewhere show how pebble tools (the first tool at the left) evolved into the Acheulean hand ax of *H* erectus. This drawing begins with an Oldowan pebble tool and moves through crude hand axes to fully developed Acheulean tools associated with *H* erectus.

ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES OF H. ERECTUS

- Interrelated changes in biology and culture increased human adaptability
- Improved tools increased range
- Biological changes permitted long-distance stalking and endurance during hunt
 - Longer legs
- H. erectus average cranial capacity doubled australopithecine average
- H. erectus face, teeth, and jaws smaller than australopithecines'
- Hearths confirm that fire had become part of the human
- adaptive kit by this time
 - Protection Survive winter cold
 - Cooking
- Was language an additional advantage?
 - Cooperative hunting
 - Evidence of elephants, horses, rhinos and giant baboons

ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES OF H. ERECTUS

- Hearths confirm that fire had become part of the human adaptive kit by this time
 - Protection
 - Survive winter cold
 - Cooking
- Was language an additional advantage?
 - Cooperative hunting

THE EVOLUTION AND EXPANSION OF H. ERECTUS

- Dmanisi fossils suggest rapid spread of early Homo out of Africa and into Eurasia by 1.7–1.77 m.y.a.
- Fossils also found in Tanzania, China, and Europe
 - Probably increased range in pursuit of meat





Note the more angular shape of the H erectus skulls, with the maximum breadth low down, near the base. source: Clifford J. Jolly and Randall White, Physical Anthropology and Archaeology, Sh ed., p. 271. Copyright © 1995 by The McGraw-Hill Componies. Inc. Reprinted with permission.

ARCHAIC H. SAPIENS

- Africa joined by Asia and Europe during *H. erectus* and *H. sapiens* periods
- Archaic Homo sapiens

 (300,000? to 28,000 B.P.)
 encompasses earliest members of species along with
 Neandertals (130,000 to 28,000 B.P.)
 Brain size in archaic H. sapiens



was within modern human range (1,350 cm³)
Rounding out of the brain case

ICE AGES OF THE PLEISTOCENE

- Several glacials: major advances of continental ice sheets in Europe and North America during second million years of Pleistocene
 - Separated by interglacials: extended warm periods between glacials
 - Würm: last glacial, 75,000 to 12,000 B.P.
 - Interstadials: brief periods of relative warmth during the Würm glacial

H. ANTECESSOR AND H. HEIDELBERGENSIS

- *H. antecessor*, from Spain's Atapuerca mountains, possible common ancestor of Neandertals and anatomically modern humans (AMHs)
- *H. heidelbergensis*—fossil found in Heidelberg, Germany—may refer to group of hominins described as either late *H. erectus* or archaic *H. sapiens*







- Stone flakes found on England's Suffolk seacoast show that humans reached northern Europe 700,000 years ago
- Terra Amata, France, shows bands of 15 to 25 people made regular visits during late spring and early summer some 300,000 years ago
- Homo's tolerance of environmental diversity increased
 - Archaic *H. sapiens* occupied Arago cave in southeastern France when Europe was bitterly cold
 - Arago fossils have mixed features that seem transitional between *H. erectus* and the Neandertals

THE NEANDERTALS

- First discovered in western Europe in Germany's Neander Valley
- Fossils that are not Neandertals but have similar features are found in Africa and Asia
- Identification of Neandertal mtDNA announced in bones from sites in central Asia and Siberia



COLD-ADAPTED NEANDERTALS

- Neandertals were stocky, with large trunks relative to their limb length
- Phenotype minimizes surface area and conserves heat
- Massive nasal cavities- long, broad noses
- to expand the area for warming and moistening air





COLD-ADAPTED NEANDERTALS

- Neandertals' front teeth: extremely large, show evidence of wear
- Probably used for many jobs later done by tools
- Later Neandertals show decrease in robust features
 - Neandertal technology, a Middle Paleolithic tool tradition called **Mousterian**, improved during Würm





THE NEANDERTALS AND MODERN PEOPLE

- Prevailing view says that *H.* erectus split
 - into separate groups, one ancestral to Neandertals, the other ancestral to AMHs
 - Neandertals differed from AMHs
 - Heavy brow ridges and slanting foreheads
 - Larger cranial capacityComparatively rugged

Greater sexual dimorphism

skeletons

An and as a set of the set of the

Neanderthal Ma

THE NEANDERTALS AND MODERN PEOPLE

- Errors helped create inaccurate stereotype of Neandertals
 - Differences exaggerated on basis of misinterpretation of La Chapelle-aux-Saints find that had osteoarthritis
 - Some argue Neandertals contributed to ancestry of anatomically modern Europeans





HOMO FLORESIENSIS

- Discovery of bones and tools of group of tiny humans in Flores, Indonesia
 - Shows that archaic humans survived much later than had been thought
 - Remains date from 95,000 to 13,000 B.P.
 - Appear to have controlled fire
 - Tools found were more sophisticated than known *H. erectus* tools
 - Population wiped out by volcanic eruption around 12.000 B.P.



