



HUMAN ORIGINS

IN AFRICA



The origins and development of the human beings are directly interlinked with the history of Africa. Around the world historians, scientists, anthropologists and archaeologists are now in complete and unanimous agreement that the human race of planet earth originated in the continent of Africa. Africans were first established on earth in around 250,000 BC. In around 50,000 BC the Africans who were the only human beings existing on planet earth at that time began to move out of Africa into Australasia, Arabia, Asia and Europe.

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THE OMO REMAINS

Some of the oldest human remains have been found at Omo Kibish near the Omo River in south-western Ethiopia in eastern Africa. The 'Omo Remains' are a collection of human bones recovered by the Kenya National Museum in the year 1967 AD. The bones

include two partial skulls, four jaws, a legbone, around two hundred teeth and several other parts. The human remains have been dated at 130,000 years old.

THE HERTO REMAINS

In 2003 AD, the oldest human remains on earth were discovered in Herto Bouri, Ethiopia which is located in east Africa. An international team led by researchers from the University of California,

Berkeley, found the skulls of two African adults and a child. These human remains have been dated by scientists to be approximately 160,000 years old.

IN A CAVE AT PINNACLE POINT IN SOUTH AFRICA, A RESEARCH TEAM LED BY ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY FOUND EVIDENCE THAT AFRICANS 164,000 YEARS AGO WERE MAKING COMPLEX TOOLS AND USING RED OCHER PIGMENT.



AFRICA AND HUMAN GENETICS

In the field of human genetics, the name “Mitochondrial Eve” refers to the most recent common ancestor in a direct, unbroken, maternal line, of all currently living humans for females. The name Mitochondrial Eve is a reference to the first human female mentioned in the Bible created by God who is named Eve. Similarly, the term “Y-chromosomal Adam” refers to the most recent common ancestor in a direct, unbroken, maternal line, of all currently living humans for males. The name Y-chromosomal Adam is a reference to the first human male mentioned in the Bible created by God who is named Adam. Both Mitochondrial Eve and Y-chromosomal Adam are believed to

have lived in Eastern Africa over 250,000 years ago by modern geneticists. DNA (also known as Deoxyribonucleic acid) is a molecule that encodes the genetic instructions used in the development and functioning of all living organisms. In 1987 AD, a group of geneticists published a study that examined the DNA taken from 147 people across all current modern-day racial groups. The geneticists found that the lineage of all people alive today falls into one of two branches in the human family tree. One of these branches consists of nothing but African lineage, the other contains all other groups, including some African lineage.

MIGRATION OUT OF AFRICA

Early on the earth was one land mass, the first Africans used a number of pathways to populate the earth. These pathways included moving north-east

from Ethiopia to Yemen and into Arabia and then into western Asia and then into eastern Asia with some settling in the modern-day region of Russia.

Other Africans continued on into far eastern Asia and into the North American region and then central and southern America. Another route the Africans took was from Africa, through Arabia and into eastern and then western Europe. Finally, the African also moved out of Africa into Arabia and then West and Eastern Asia and down into South-East Asian and Australia, Polynesia and Melanesia. Skin color variations amongst the human beings from dark to light came about due to the quantity of Melanin in the skin depending on the region of the planet humans were living in.

In the present day we can find examples of peoples in regions outside of Africa who look almost identical to Africans. Amongst the original inhabitants of Australia of the present-day we find the Aboriginal Australians who still retain the features of their African ancestors. Also, in Melanesia, which

includes Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu again we find the original inhabitants retaining the features of their African ancestors. The same examples can be found amongst the original inhabitants of the Polynesian islands located in the southern Pacific Ocean. In addition, the indigenous peoples of Malaysia (in east Asia) called the 'Semang' tribe, the indigenous peoples of Thailand (in east Asia) called the 'Maniq' tribe and the indigenous people of the Philippines (in east Asia) called Agta are virtually indistinguishable from native Africans. Research conducted by Oxford University in England, UK and Stanford in California, USA has found that Melanesians from New Guinea and Aborigines from Australia share much of the same genetics as their African ancestors and are linked to the original expansion of Africans out of the continent and into other regions of the planet in 50,000 BC.

THE NUBIAN COMPLEX OF DHOFAR IN OMAN

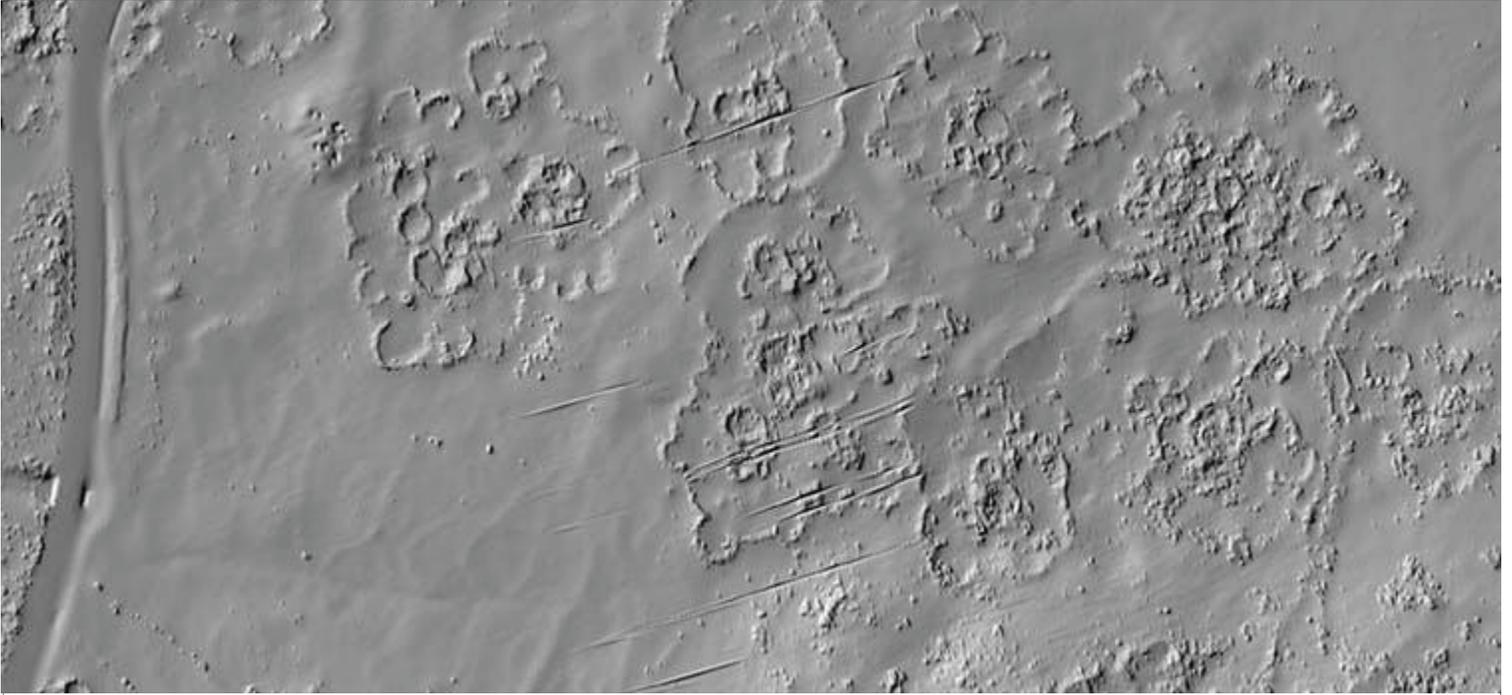
South east of modern-day Saudi Arabia, the country of modern-day Oman is located. The site named Aybut Al Auwal and at least a further 260 occurrences of Nubian artifacts belonging to a regionally-specific African lithic industry have also

been discovered within the region. Archeologists have dated the site at 106,000 years old. These discoveries provide archaeological evidence for the presence of a distinct northeast African middle stone age technocomplex in southern Arabia.

MIGRATION AND MELANIN

Melanin is the main determinant of skin color and eye color. Melanin also aids humans in human reproduction because it protects against folate depletion which is required for organ development. Melanin also protects the skin from damage and reduces signs of aging. There is also another type of Melanin known as Neuromelanin which is present within the brain in larger quantities in humans

and much lesser in other species such as animals. Melanin also protects humans from ultra-violet radiation and skin-cancer. Human beings with higher exposure to the sun such as the African retained their melanin and darker skin complexions while humans with lower exposure to sun such as those who remained in Europe eventually lost their melanin.



THE TSWANA CITY

Located in southern Africa about 37 miles south of Johannesburg in modern-day South Africa the remains of an ancient African city were discovered in 2015 AD. The remains of the African city include some huge stone concentrically circled walls and they are estimated to cover over 1500 square kilometers. Each wall averages 3.5 meters high in places. However, the most stunning element of this

discovery is that the city has been dated by scientists to be 200,000 years old. This would make it the oldest city on planet earth. The geology of the site is also interesting; situated beside numerous gold mines, it has been suggested they were the first gold miners. Other monuments include a large number of stone towers which 1.8 –2.5 meters tall and about 5 meters wide at their base.