

PREHISTORY STUDY GUIDE

I. **Paleolithic Era: 2.5 mya – 10 kya. Prehistoric people learned to adapt to and conquer their environment make simple tools, and use fire.**

a. Hominin Species from Hominidae family

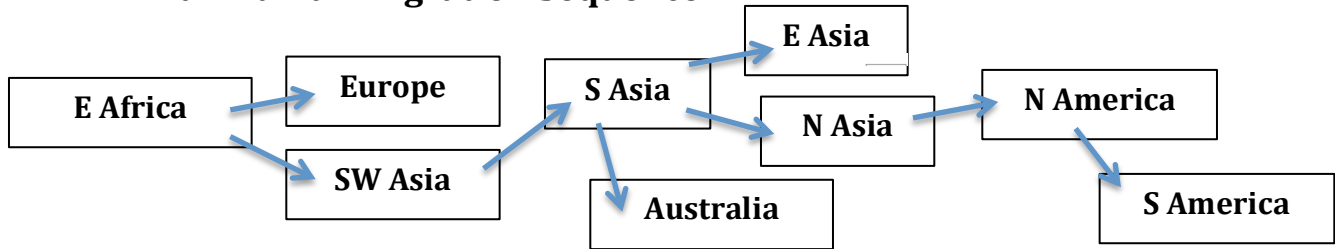
- i. *Ardipithecus ramidus* (Pre-Paleolithic)
 1. ~5-4 mya
 2. Half-biped; half quadruped (long arms; thumb-like toes)
 3. Hunter/gatherer
- ii. *Australopithecus afarensis* (Pre-Paleolithic)
 1. ~4-3 mya
 2. Find examples: Lucy and Selam
 3. Walked upright most of the time
 4. Hunter/gatherer
- iii. *Homo habilis* (Paleolithic)
 1. ~2-1 mya
 2. “handy human”
 3. First to create crude stone tools
 4. Hunter/gatherer
- iv. *Homo erectus* (Paleolithic)
 1. ~1.5 mya
 2. “upright human”
 3. First to learn how to manipulate fire
 4. Tools became more advanced: awl, bone point, axe, etc.
 5. Migrated across the globe
 6. Hunter/gatherer
- v. *Homo neanderthalensis* (Paleolithic)
 1. ~ 300 kya
 2. Settled in Europe
 3. Interbred with *H. sapiens*
 4. Died out 40 kya
- vi. *Homo sapiens* (end of Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Today)
 1. ~200 kya
 2. “wise human”
 3. Advanced tool development and fire usage (copper axe)
 4. Agricultural revolution: rise of farming and domestication
 5. Began to build permanent dwellings

b. Advancements of Paleolithic People

- i. Bipedalism
- ii. Obtaining food
- iii. Making tools
- iv. Making fire
- v. Seeking shelter
- vi. Making clothing
- vii. Developing language

II. Mesolithic Era: 10,000 BCE – 5,000 BCE. *As people migrated around the world, they learned to adapt to and conquer new environments.*

a. Human Migration Sequence:



b. Characteristics

- i. Climate change from end of Ice Ages [1.6 mya – 10 kya]
- ii. Humans moved out of Africa,
- iii. They dispersed, and migrated across land bridges to settle new lands.

c. Adaptations

- i. More advanced clothing from sewn animal skins
- ii. More complex tools made from stone and bone
 1. Hooks and fishing spears
 2. Canoes
 3. Bow and arrow
 4. Domestication
- iii. More substantial and permanent dwellings
 1. Pit house
 2. Mammoth house
 3. Permanent dwellings made from wood, stone, and clay

III. Neolithic Era: ~6,000 BCE to ~3,000 BCE. *The development of agriculture brought great changes to human society.*

a. Ötzi the Iceman

- i. Discovered in Italian Alps in 1991 by Erika and Helmut Simon
- ii. Preserved by snow and ice; fell perpendicular to the glacier; sustained injuries to head, hand, and back
- iii. Cause of death remains a mystery
- iv. Important objects found at the site
 1. Clothing: bearskin cap, insulated shoes
 2. Tools: birch pouch to store embers
 3. Weapons: copper axe, long bow, quiver, flint arrowheads

b. Characteristics

- i. Farming + herding = agriculture → stable food supply.
- ii. Rise of specialization, trade, and leisure time
- iii. Organized and permanent dwellings

c. Adaptations: plow, fencing, irrigation, and pottery