

- The footprints found in caves containing cave art are nearly always of bare feet. But because they were made during the Ice Age, we know that the people must have been wearing shoes before they entered the cave. Does this indicate to you that the caves had a religious function? In what other ways do archaeologists use small clues, like footprints, to understand the meaning of cave art?
- The study of Cro-Magnons reminds us of the importance of art to humans. Is art important to you? If you don't think so, what would your answer be if you include music, television, and movies in the category of art? Why would you find it difficult to live without these things? What do they do for you?
- Australia's Mungo Lake National Park is part of UNESCO's Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. Can you find out more about UNESCO's efforts to protect these regions? Are there any near you?

#### Internet Resources

[http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/cult\\_sci/anthro/art/paleoart.html](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/academic/cult_sci/anthro/art/paleoart.html) -- Entitled "Paleolithic Art," a good site for students.

<http://www.culture.gouv.fr/culture/arnat/lascaux/en/> -- Hosted by the French Ministry of Culture, an excellent site on the Lascaux Cave.

<http://vm.kemsu.ru/> -- A good Russian site (with text in English) that is a "Virtual Museum" of prehistoric art.

<http://www.instituteagestudies.com/index.html> -- Home page of the Institute for Ice Age Studies.

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHprehistoric.html> -- A rich Web site hosted by an art history professor that includes a long list of other sites on prehistoric art.

[http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/label\\_france/ENGLISH/SCIENCES/CHAUVET/cha.html](http://www.france.diplomatie.fr/label_france/ENGLISH/SCIENCES/CHAUVET/cha.html) -- A site on the recently discovered paintings at the Chauvet Cave in France.

<http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/2384/links.html> -- Entitled "Rock Links," a list of over 200 Web sites dealing with prehistoric art.

<http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/%7Eeacheyne/signcon.html> -- A thorough and scholarly introduction to prehistoric art.

<http://www.humanities-interactive.org/ancient/iceage/index.html> -- Excellent images from an exhibition on "Ice Age Art."

[http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected\\_areas/data/wh/willandr.html](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/protected_areas/data/wh/willandr.html) -- From the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, a good page on the Willandra Lakes Region, which includes Lake Mungo.

<http://www.archaeology.usyd.edu.au/links/links.html> -- From the University of Sydney, a good list of links on rock art, especially Australian.

<http://www.wits.ac.za/science/archaeology/> -- A rich site from the Rock Art Research Centre.

<http://www.sli.unimelb.edu.au/aura/aura.html> -- Home page of the Australian Rock Art Research Association.

<http://www.talkorigins.org/faqs/homs/links.html> -- A listing of links relating to a wide range of subjects in paleoanthropology.

<http://www.mnh.si.edu/anthro/humanorigins/> -- From the Smithsonian Institution's Human Origins Program, a rich site entitled "In Search of What Makes Us Human."

[http://www.wsu.edu:8001/vwsu/gened/learn-modules/top\\_longfor/lfopen-index.html](http://www.wsu.edu:8001/vwsu/gened/learn-modules/top_longfor/lfopen-index.html) -- Entitled "The Long Foreground: Human Prehistory," an excellent site for students. From Washington State University.

<http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/> -- A vast site with a great deal of information on evolution, anthropology, and related topics. From the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley.

<http://www.amnh.org/> -- The main page of the Web site of the American Museum of Natural History, which can be searched for specific information on human evolution.

#### Other Resources

##### For students:

**Craipeau, Jean-Loup.** *Searching for Human Origins.* Barron's, 1998.

**Denzel, Justin.** *Boy of the Painted Cave.* PaperStar Books, 1997.

**Hayward, Linda.** *Cave People.* Putnam and Grossett, 1997.

**Lasky, Kathryn.** *First Painter.* DK Publishing, 2000.

**Lauber, Patricia.** *Painters of the Caves.* National Geographic Society, 1998.

**Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw.** *Mystery of the Lascaux Cave.* Marshall Cavendish, 1998.

**Saint-Blanquat, Henri De.** *Atlas of Human Origins.* Barron's, 1999.

##### For adults:

**Bahn, Paul G., and Morris, Desmond.** *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Prehistoric Art.* Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998.

**Bahn, Paul G.** *Journey Through the Ice Age.* Univ. of California Press, 1997.

**Barber, E.J.W.** *Prehistoric Textiles.* Princeton Univ. Press, 1992.

**Bradley, Richard.** *Rock Art and the Prehistory of Atlantic Europe : Signing the Land.* Routledge, 1997.

**Chippindale, Christopher, ed.** *The Archaeology of Rock-Art (New Directions in Archaeology Series).* Cambridge Univ. Press, 1999.

**Clottes, Jean, et. al.** *The Shamans of Prehistory: Trance and Magic in the Painted Caves.* Harry N. Abrams, 1999.

**Conkey, Margaret W., ed.** *Beyond Art: Pleistocene Image and Symbol (Wattis Symposium Series in Anthropology).* Univ. of California Press, 1997.

**McKie, Robin.** *Dawn of Man: The Story of Human Evolution.* Dorling Kindersley, 2000.

**Sandars, N.K.** *Prehistoric Art in Europe (Pelican History of Art).* Yale Univ. Press, 1992.

**Soffer, Olga, ed.** *The Pleistocene Old World : Regional Perspectives (Interdisciplinary Contributions to Archaeology).* Plenum, 1987.

**Tattersall, Ian, and Schwartz, Jeffrey.** *Extinct Humans.* Westview Press, 2000.

**Trinkaus, Erick, ed.** *The Emergence of Modern Humans: Biocultural Adaptations in the Later Pleistocene.* Cambridge Univ. Press, 1990.

**Walker, Alan.** *The Wisdom of the Bones : In Search of Human Origins.* Vintage Books, 1997.

**Walsh, Graeme.** *Australia's Greatest Rock Art.* Australia in Print, 1990.

## THE HUMAN JOURNEY

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## THE HUMAN JOURNEY

Where did we come from? When did we begin? Are we all truly members of one family? Humans have long asked themselves these questions, but only recently have they been able to answer them. THE HUMAN JOURNEY explores the origin and evolution of our species and shows how humans spread across the globe. It draws on the breakthroughs recently achieved by anthropologists and shows how they have filled in the fossil record. The series travels the Earth to illustrate how our ancestors lived, died, and laid the basis of civilization.

### PART THREE: THE CREATIVE EXPLOSION

The dramatic story of human origins follows our ancestors as they leave the Middle East and venture deep into Asia. We pick up their trail in Indonesia around 80,000 years ago, and we are introduced to the changing lifestyles of these early explorers as they roam through the tropical forests. They narrowly survive one of history's greatest cataclysms, and then, for the first time, they begin to experiment with raft building, which brings extraordinary consequences. Within a relatively brief time--20,000 years--modern humans spread out across the island continent of Australia. But if the journey of modern humans did begin in Africa 200,000-300,000 years ago, why did it take so long for evidence of human culture to appear? This is the journey of the human mind.



After reading about the creative explosion, read the sections on vocabulary and important people and places, and study the timeline to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed and consider the Things To Think About. Research topics further using the Internet and other resources provided.

#### **The Origin of Art and Culture**

Compared with the millions of years that life has existed on Earth, the span of human history is tiny. But think of what we humans have achieved in the brief span of our existence. We have gone to the moon, plumbed the depths of the ocean, and changed the very face of the planet. Besides these technical and scientific achievements, we have also created astonishing works of art. A visit to an art museum, a concert hall, or great architecture reminds us that human creativity is without parallel.

How did this happen? Once modern humans migrated out of Africa and began to move into the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, they began to show signs of that most human of traits: self-awareness. We began to see our place in a social group, to anticipate our needs and plan ahead, and to manipulate the environment. It all happened in a burst of energy that was nothing less than a creative explosion.

In this segment we will see how anthropologists and archaeologists have discovered the history of this breakthrough in such sites as caves, settlements, and rock walls. Early humans showed themselves to be artists with great sensibilities. They were able to create clay figurines, intricately carved weapons and tools, musical instruments, and, perhaps most extraordinary of all, paintings that show remarkable sensitivity, talent, and realism.

#### **Vocabulary**

**aborigine** -- The name given to the indigenous people of Australia.

**bamboo** -- A woody grass that grows in the tropics that was used by early modern humans for the construction of spears, containers, and rafts.

**caldera** -- A type of volcanic crater formed by the collapse of the volcano's center or by an extremely powerful explosion. The Toba volcano is an example of a caldera.

**ceramic** -- An item made from a material, like clay, that is fired at a high temperature. The oldest known ceramics were made by the people of Dolni Vestonice some 26,000 years ago.

**Cro-Magnon** -- Name given to the branch of Homo sapiens who migrated into Europe from the Middle East around 40,000 years ago. Named after a cave in France.

**hominid** -- A primate that stands erect and walks on two feet.

**Homo erectus** -- An extinct hominid species that descended from Homo ergaster. Also known as Java man.

**Homo ergaster** -- An extinct hominid species that first appeared in East Africa and then quickly spread into Asia.

**Homo sapiens** -- The modern human species.

**Ice Age** -- A period during which the earth's temperature experiences long-lasting cooling.

**Java man** -- Another name for Homo erectus, specifically the specimens found in Southeast Asia.

**Magdalenians** -- Descendants of the Cro-Magnons. They flourished in Europe between 18,000 and 10,000 years ago.

**mammoth** -- An extinct elephant-like creature that lived in Europe, North America and Asia. It was characterized by long body hair and large upward-curving tusks.

## Timeline

**5.5 million years ago** -- Primates first begin to walk on two legs.

**2 million years ago** -- Homo ergaster appears in East Africa. The species soon moves up the Great Rift Valley and migrates out of Africa.

**1.8 million years ago** -- Homo ergaster, which evolves into Homo erectus, reaches Java.

**200,000 years ago** -- The Great Ice Age begins to recede. Emergence of the Neanderthals.

**130,000 years ago** -- As the climate turns moister and warmer, Homo sapiens begins to migrate out of Africa.

**100,000 years ago** -- Modern humans appear in the Middle East. The descendants of Homo erectus disappear from the fossil record in Southeast Asia.

**90,000 years ago** -- Modern humans move out of the Middle East.

**75,000 years ago** -- Modern humans reach Southeast Asia. Eruption of Toba.

**60,000 years ago** -- Modern humans reach Australia; date of the skeleton known as "Mungo Man."

**40,000 years ago** -- Modern humans move into Europe.

**27,000 years ago** -- Date of the last known Neanderthal remains; date of the ritual burial site of modern humans discovered in the Czech Republic.

**20,000 years ago** -- An ice age descends upon the Cro-Magnons in Europe; date of the footprints found in the Niort Cave, France.

**18,000--10,000 years ago** -- The era of the Magdalenians in Europe.

**17,000 years ago** -- Date of the art in the cave at Lascaux, France.

**1940** -- Lascaux Cave is discovered in France.

**1974** -- "Mungo Man" is discovered in Australia.

**mangrove** -- A type of tree or shrub that grows thickly in tropical regions. Early modern humans in Southeast Asia used it along with bamboo in raft construction.

**Mungo Man** -- Name given to a 60,000-year-old skeleton discovered in Australia. It was sprinkled with pigment in an apparent burial ritual, the earliest known record of such a practice.

**palorchestes** -- A giant prehistoric marsupial. Its image was painted by ancient peoples on rock walls in Australia.

**terra-cotta** -- A fired clay used for vases, statues, and building materials. The type of ceramic made by the people of Dolni Vestonice.

**Venus of Willendorf** -- One of many female figurines, which have been given the name "Venus," carved by the Cro-Magnons.

#### **Important People**

**Soffer, Olga** -- Anthropologist who discovered evidence of textile manufacture by the people of Dolni Vestonice.

#### **Important Places**

**Arnhem Land** -- Site in Australia of ancient rock art painted on sandstone walls.

**Dolni Vestonice** -- Site of important Cro-Magnon finds in the Czech Republic.

**Java** -- Fifth-largest and most heavily populated island in Indonesia. It proved an ideal place for early modern humans.

**Lake Mungo** -- An ancient lake in Australia where the skeleton known as "Mungo Man" was discovered. Australia's Mungo Lake National Park, the site of an ancient lake system that existed at the end of the last ice age some 15,000 years ago, is part of UNESCO's Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area.

**Lascaux** -- Cave in France that contains some of the finest examples of cave painting. Discovered by accident in 1940.

**Niort** -- Site of a cave in western France in which footprints have been found dating back to 20,000 years ago.

**Sumatra** -- Indonesian island lying northwest of Java across the narrow Sunda Strait. Site of Toba volcano.

**Toba** -- Volcano on Sumatra. Its eruption 75,000 years ago nearly obliterated humanity. Today the ancient volcanic caldera contains Lake Toba, Indonesia's largest lake.

#### **Things To Think About**

- Anthropologists have discovered a bone on which Cro-Magnons apparently carved a map. What use do you think these early humans would have made of a map? What does it tell you about their thinking?
- Some anthropologists have interpreted the "Venus" figures as symbols of procreation and fertility. Why do you think these would have been such important issues to Cro-Magnons? Do you think that the harsh climate of the Ice Age created an awareness of the difficulty of survival?
- Some anthropologists have detected on the walls of European caves what they think may be the first attempts at writing. What do you think early writing was used for? Why was it important for humans to learn to write? What can you learn about the origins of writing?
- Since the birth of art and culture came as a kind of "explosion," does this suggest to you that human achievement may not occur in a steady flow but rather in short spurts of great creativity? Can you think of other examples in history where great achievements were made in a relatively short time?