

Hominid Migration Discussion Questions

1. How many thousands of years ago is .3 million years? Or .02 million years?
2. Why have scientists concluded that Africa is the "birthplace" of humanity?
3. Find a fossil and write its type (taxon) and map coordinates for each of the following locations below:

a. China	d. Australia	g. Germany
b. United States	e. Brazil	h. Ethiopia
c. Mexico	f. Java	i. Iraq
		j. South Africa

4. Which fossil taxon seems to have the earliest wide distribution throughout much of the Old World? How did they get to these places? Pick two sites that are widely separated and infer the relative age of each specimen. (Which one is older than the other? Explain your reasoning.)
5. In which area of the Old World does Neanderthal seems to be most prominent?
6. Early modern *Homo sapiens* were the first hominids to enter into which continent(s)? Choose one and infer a possible path of migration.
7. Where is the greatest coexistence between Neanderthals and early modern *Homo sapiens* likely to have occurred? Explain how this may have contributed to the extinction of Neanderthals.
8. Describe the overall migration pattern of humans and prehuman ancestors based on the data that you plotted on the map.