

African Origins and Human Evolution

- models of evolutionary change: gradualism, punctuated equilibrium, adaptive radiation
- last common ancestor with apes probably from around 8-6 million years ago
- genus *Homo* appears about 2.4 million years ago
- 'Lucy': about 1 metre tall, skeleton is about 60% complete, about 3.2 million years ago, during species diversification
- South Africa: 125,000-75,000 BP, people are beginning to live by pretty recognisably human methods
- Skhul Cave and Qafzeh Cave in Israel: 130,000-90,000 BP, skull is similar to early modern humans, objects are beginning to be placed with human's graves
- Mount Toba Event: c.74,000 BP: massive eruption in Sumatra, caused a volcanic winter
- Lijiang Cave in China and Tam Pa Ling Skull in Laos: 68,000 BP; 46-63,000 BP; could be one of the earliest migrations of *Homo sapien* out of Africa
- Shanidar 1: 60,000-45,000 BP; had horrible injuries yet lived beyond these and was still apart of the neanderthal society shows how the community is working during this time
- around 16,500 BCE icebergs began to melt and people began to move into South America