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"Just like moons and like suns,
with the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise."

Maya Angelou,
Still I Rise



AFRICA

4.2 million
Hominids
appear
in Africa.

**800,000-
500,000**
Homo sapiens
originate in Africa.

250,000
Stone Age humans
create the first
stone tools and
make arrow-heads
and blades.

200,000-100,000
DNA studies place
the first human and
common female
ancestor of all
humans in Africa.

50,000
Middle
Stone Age
begins.

35,000
Global migration
of the African
population begins.

8000-800
Three great African
civilizations develop.

2000
The Iron Age be-
gins. Africans smelt
iron ore and
grow food.

4,200,000 B.C.E.

200,000 B.C.E.

35,000 B.C.E.

15,000 B.C.E.

5000 B.C.E.

THE AMERICAS

2 million
The Ice Age covers
much of Europe
and Siberia.

15,000
Humans
migrate
across the
Bering Strait.

7000
Native Americans
domesticate plants.

WORLD

10,000
The Ice
Age
ends.

3000-1500
Civilizations
of the
Indus River
Valley begin.

A Rich Legacy

UNIT 1

4.2 Million B.C.E. – 1594 C.E.

Unit Summary—The history of African Americans begins on the continent of Africa, the birthplace of all humans. The first human migrations began in Africa before spreading to Europe and Asia. These first Africans left behind stone tools and other artifacts which were discovered millions of years later by archaeologists: scientists who study fossils and other remains of the past and establish connections to the present.

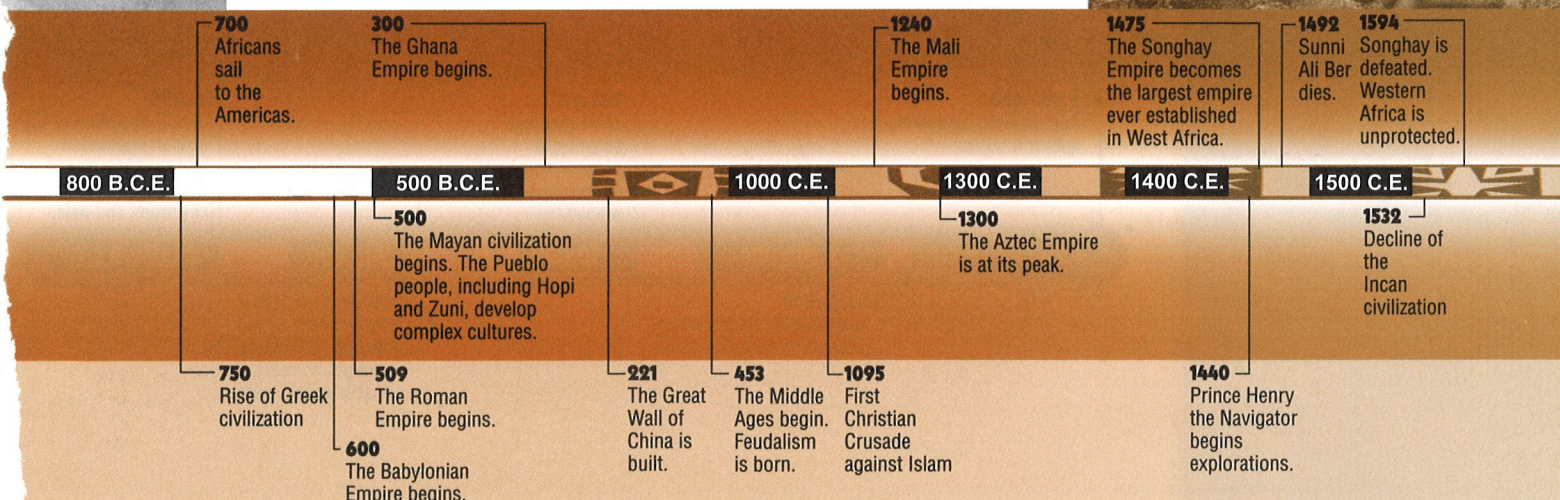
(Chapter 1)

During this period of human development—called the Stone Age—Africans created tools out of stone, medicines from leaves and plants, and clothing from grass. Scientists believe that Stone Age people who moved to colder climates underwent genetic and physical changes (differentiation) to survive the Ice Age. The physical differences that resulted from the Ice Age are the same differences that are used today to classify people by race. Developments in the field of genetic science have shown that humans are more alike than they are different. The concept of race and negative stereotypes of Africans developed as Europeans came into contact with Africa. Unfortunately, many of these ideas still exist today. Africans do not hold these negative racial stereotypes about themselves. They understand that their differences are only cultural differences among the diverse peoples of the continent, where more than 2,000 languages are spoken. (Chapter 2)

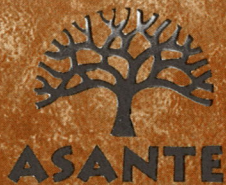
Africa is a very large continent. A special map, called a Peters Projection map, shows the true land size of Africa. Three of the world's great rivers flow through the continent. Many of Africa's greatest civilizations developed along their banks. (Chapters 3 and 4)

BEFORE YOU READ

Ancestors play an important role in our lives. They are our connection to the past and the people who came before us, whether they lived 400 or four million years ago. In this unit you will read about the African ancestors of all humans. You will also read about their descendants who polished stone tools, developed the first calendar, and built great empires on the continent of Africa. Close your eyes and envision these early ancestors of long ago. What do you have in common with them? What are some of the things that have changed?



1



AS YOU READ

- Why is Africa important to all people?
- Why do scientists believe that Africa is the “cradle of the species”?
- Where did the first human migration begin?

Chapter Outline

- **A Common Ancestry**
- **Cradle of the Human Race**
- **The First Human Migration**

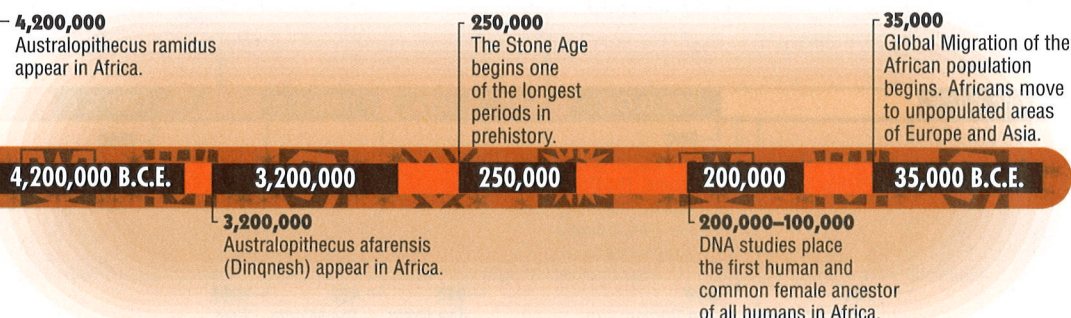
Vocabulary

- common ancestry • ancestors • DNA • monogenesis • prehistory • hominids
- archaeologists • artifacts • civilization

A Common Ancestry

The history of African Americans is a journey through time across continents and oceans, races and cultures, past and present. It is the journey of a people which began on the continent of Africa, a land of many firsts and the birthplace of all humans (see Origins, p. A4). Along the way, humans shared a **common ancestry**—a powerful bond between people who share the same origins. The time would come when this bond would be tested by acts of injustice and inhumanity, which so often seem to go hand in hand with human development.

At the turn of this new millennium and the dawn of the 21st century, advances in technology and science are providing proof of the strong genetic bonds that make humans more alike than they are different. Science also continues to affirm a fact that many African Americans already embrace: Africa as the “Mother Land,” the birthplace of the **ancestors** who came centuries before.





Human beings are more alike than they are different. Studies show that genetic fragments from this San family of Africa may date back to the origin of humans.

The theory that modern humans evolved from African origins is supported by recent DNA studies of genetic material transmitted only through females. **DNA** is the genetic code that carries information about cells and controls heredity. By studying and comparing DNA material from fossils found in Africa to DNA material taken from people in various parts of the world, scientists have concluded that all humans are descended from one common female ancestor. Scientists refer to this woman as “Eve.” From their studies, scientists have determined that “Eve” was a small muscular young woman who lived in Africa between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago. This finding supports the theory of

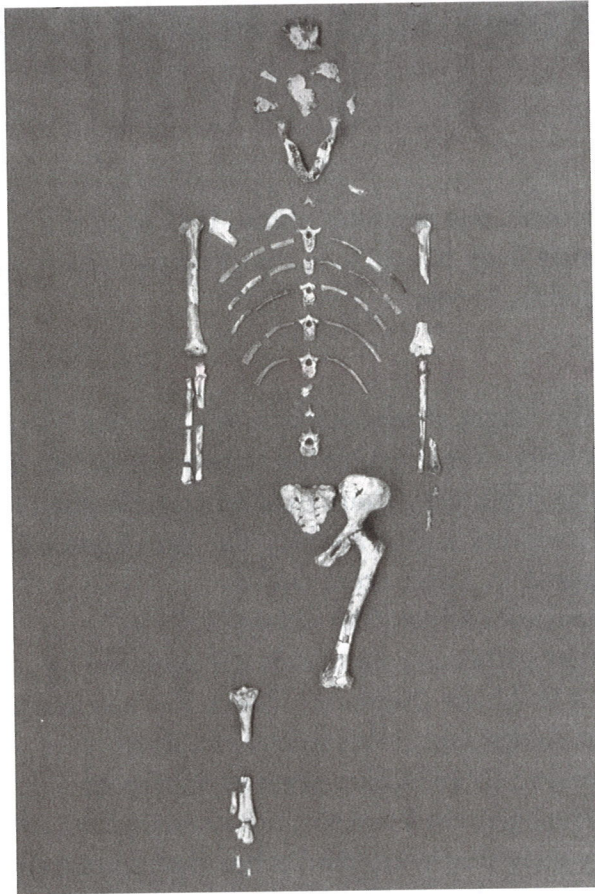
monogenesis, one common origin. It is part of a growing body of evidence that human history started in Africa.

Cradle of the Human Race

The origin of modern humans goes back to a time before recorded history, known as **prehistory**. During prehistory there existed small human-like creatures called **hominids**. The first hominids to appear in Africa were called Australopithecines. The oldest of these, *Australopithecus ramidus*, is documented by only a few bone fragments. Much more is known about *Australopithecus afarensis*, which was discovered in 1974 by a team of Ethiopian archaeologists. **Archaeologists** are scientists who study bone fragments and other human remains from past cultures. The Ethiopian team, led by Donald Johanson, an American archaeologist, found the fossilized skeleton remains curled up like a fetus in the semiarid region of the east African country of Ethiopia. The Ethiopians named this skeleton Dinqnesh (Deenk-NESH), and the Americans named it Lucy. Carbon dating tests, which help determine the age of bones of deceased humans and animals, led scientists to believe that Dinqnesh lived about 3.2 million years ago. Other data suggested that she lived in an environment that was rich with water, food, and natural places for shelter and protection, such as rock ledges and huge trees. Archaeologists have discovered so many other fossils in East Africa that they refer to the continent of Africa as the “cradle of the species,” the original home of humankind.

The First Human Migration

The first human migrations began in Africa as small groups of people moved from place to place. As prehistoric Africans evolved and



The remains of this early ancestor of humans were found in Ethiopia in 1974. Scientists reconstructed the 3.2 million year-old skeleton and named her Lucy. Africans call her Dinqnesh.

developed, some of them moved beyond the borders of Africa to new lands in the unpopulated regions of Europe and Asia. Those who stayed in Africa also migrated often, leaving behind a trail of tools and other **artifacts** that offer clues to their existence. (see Origins, p. A2)

In 1972, Richard Leakey, a Kenyan archaeologist, found a stone tool left by a hunter and toolmaker 3 million years ago near Lake Turkana in East Africa. After examining it, Leakey remarked:

"It is a heart quickening thought that we share the same heritage with the hand that shaped the tool that we can now hold in our own hands, and with the mind that decided to make the tool that our minds can now contemplate."

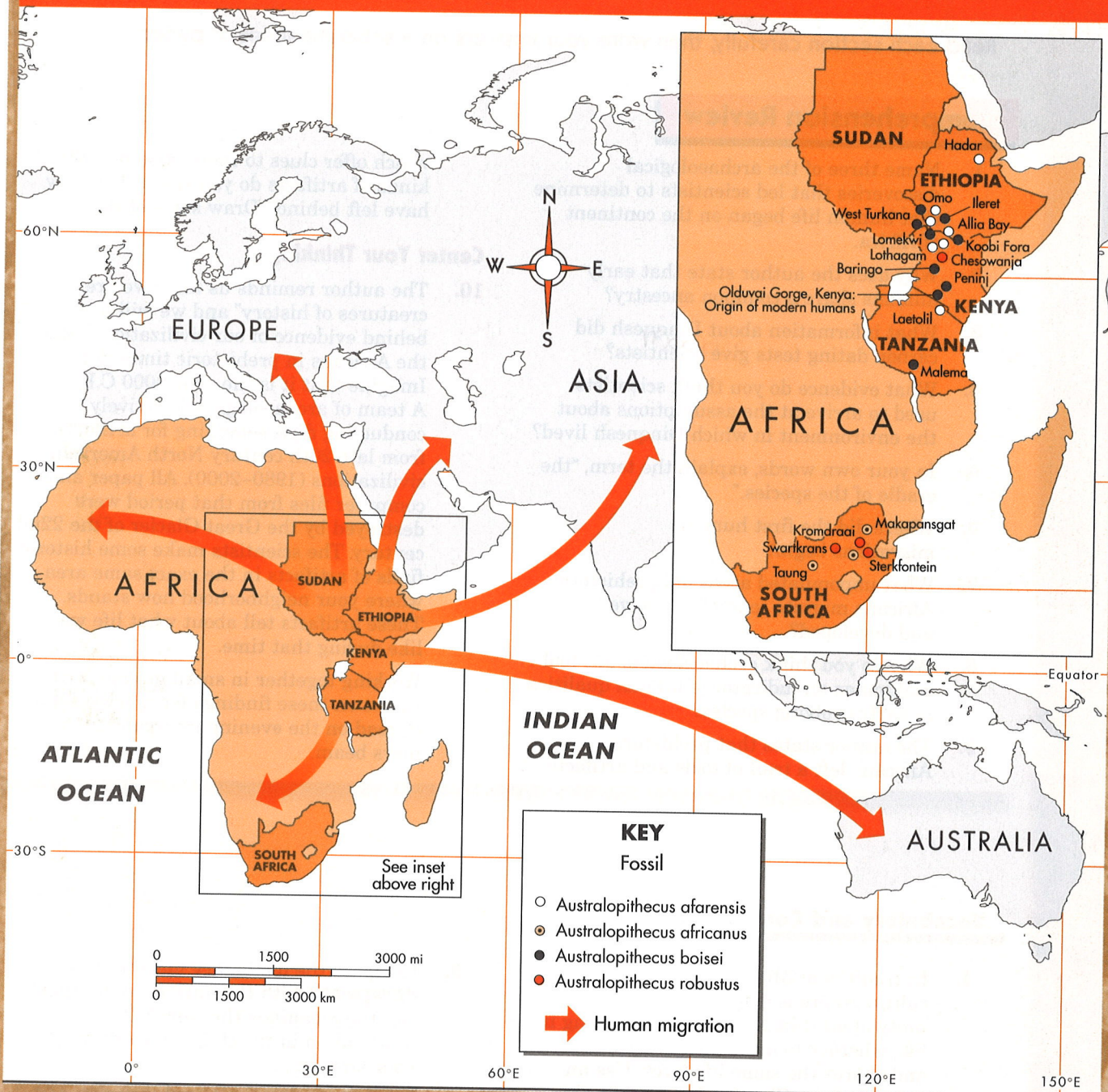
Leakey understood the unbroken connection between the past and the present. What we do today is connected to what our ancestors did yesterday. We are all creatures of history and, like our ancestors, will leave behind the evidence of our **civilization**—our system of social development.

In the rest of this unit, you will learn more about human development. You will also learn about how early humans moved from place to place and adapted to their environment. You will read about the Stone Age—one of the longest periods of prehistory— and about Africa's Golden Age of discovery and achievement. You will see the diversity of the continent, its geography, ethnic groups, and cultural identities.

By the end of this unit, you will have a thorough understanding of the people who gave Africa its rich legacy and who later faced the horrors of the world's largest forced human migration. African Americans are some of their descendants.

Human Ancestors		
FOSSIL	AGE (B.C.E.)	CHARACTERISTICS
Australopithecus ramidus	4.2 mil.	Probably walked on two feet
Australopithecus afarensis (Dinqnesh)	3.2 mil.	Fully mature adult female
Australopithecus africanus	3 mil.	Known for powerful build of upper body
Australopithecus boisei	2.6 mil.	Massive chewing muscles
Australopithecus robustus	2 mil.	Hand bones show anatomical ability to make stone tools
Homo habilis	2.5 mil.	Large brain relative to body size
Homo erectus	1.8 mil.	Long limbs
Early Homo Sapiens "Eve"	200,000–100,000	Small, muscular female ancestor of all humans
Modern humans	100,000	Anatomically modern humans. Earliest evidence in Africa

HUMAN ORIGINS AND MIGRATION (c. 3.2 million-35,000 B.C.E.)



USING DIFFERENT SOURCES

The large map shows the directions of human migration. Use the timeline on page 4 to determine the date this global migration of Africans began.

Use the chart on page 6 to describe the human ancestors who migrated at that time.

USING A MAP KEY

The inset map shows the location in Africa where fossils of human ancestors have been found.

In which two modern countries were the most *Australopithecus afarensis* fossils found? Where were *Australopithecus africanus* fossils concentrated?



Chapter 1 After You Read

Read each section carefully, then write your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

Comprehension Review

1. Name three of the archaeological discoveries that led scientists to determine that human life began on the continent of Africa.
2. Why does the author state that early humans share a common ancestry?
3. What information about Dinqnesh did carbon dating tests give scientists?
4. What evidence do you think scientists used to arrive at the assumptions about the environment in which Dinqnesh lived?
5. In your own words, explain the term, “the cradle of the species.”
6. Where did the first human migrations begin?
7. What unpopulated areas did prehistoric Africans migrate to as they evolved and developed?
8. Why do you think archaeologists use tool making as an indicator of human qualities in early evolving species?
9. The author states that prehistoric Africans left a trail of tools and artifacts

which offer clues to their existence. What kinds of artifacts do you think they may have left behind? Draw some of these.

Center Your Thinking

10. The author reminds us that “we are all creatures of history” and we will leave behind evidence of our civilization just as the Africans in prehistoric times did. Imagine that it is the year 8000 C.E. A team of archaeologists is actively conducting digs, searching for artifacts from late 20th century North American civilizations (1980–2000). All paper and computer files from that period were destroyed by the Great Glacier of the 22nd century. The scientists make some historic finds of artifacts in the exact same area where your neighborhood now stands. These artifacts tell about what life was like during that time.

Working together in small groups, write a report on these findings for a newscaster to read on the evening intergalactic news beam.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1. In traditional African philosophy and culture, there is a strong belief in the unity of all things—that is, everything in life, whether living or not, is interrelated and shares the same life force. Use an example from Chapter 1 to explain this belief in your own words.
2. If **prehistory** means the time before recorded history, how do we know about things that happened during that period?
3. Compare the dictionary meaning of **monogenesis** with the author’s definition? Are the meanings the same? Use information in the chapter to explain your answer.
4. Many times the words **archaeologists** and **scientists** are used interchangeably. Explain why this is so.
5. What are **hominids** and how are they different from modern humans?