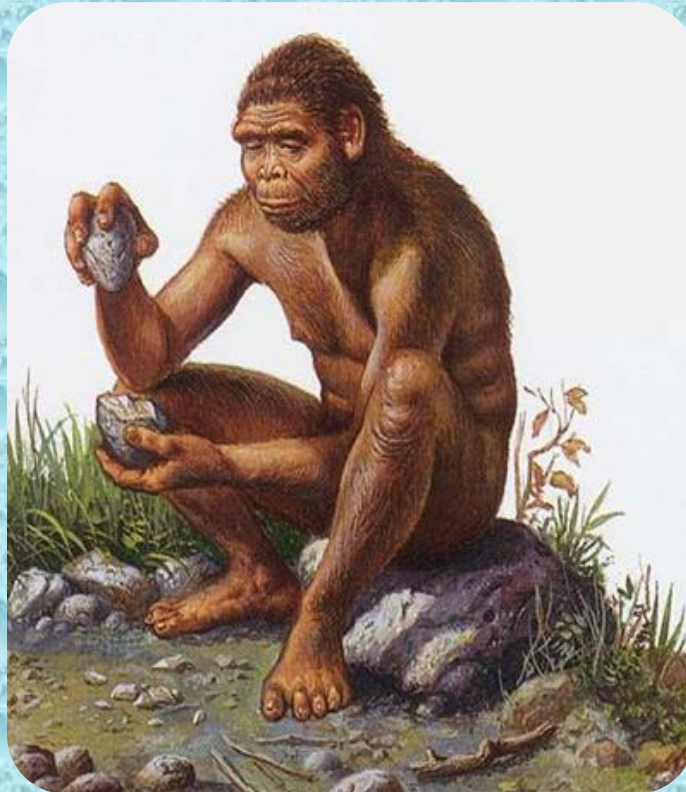


Early man





Content

1. Origin of man
2. Evolution of man
3. Cultural and economic practices of early man

Origin of Man

There are three major theories have attempted to explain the origin of man namely:-

- ❑ The creation theory
- ❑ The mythical theory
- ❑ The evolution theory

The Creation Theory

- ❖ This theory is propagated by most of the world's major religions
- ❖ It is thus explained in various religious books such as the Bible (for Christians); the Quaran (for Muslims); the Vedas (for Hindus)
- ❖ The Jews who practice Judaism also believe in the creation theory
- ❖ This religious view point to God/Allah/Brahma as the creator the universe
- ❖ According to the Bible and Koran, God/Allah created Adam and Eve, blessed them, told them to replenish the earth. He also gave them authority over the rest of creation.

The Mythical or traditional theory

- ❖ This theory is used by communities to explain how they came into existence,. The explanation is given in the form of oral traditions. This theory uses myths and legends to explain and try to comprehend supernatural phenomena, customs and practices. Examples of African myths include:-
- ❖ The Agikuyu myths explain that God (Ngai) created the first man, Gikuyu and provided him with a wife, Mumbi. He gave them land on which to settle at Mukurwe wa Gathanga. He blessed them with 9 daughters, who were married by 9 sons provided by God. These were the founders of the Gikuyu community.

- ❖ The Maasai of Kenya also believed that Enkai (God) dropped their ancestors from the sky
- ❖ The Yoruba of Nigeria state that Olorun, the supreme God., sent man from the sky to live on earth
- ❖ Among the Buganda of Uganda, it is believed that the first man, Kintu, appeared from the sky and was later joined by God's daughter, Nambi, whom he married
- ❖ Southern African communities such as the Thonga of Mozambique and Zulu of South Africa believed that their ancestors came from a certain reed.

The Evolution Theory

- This theory is credited to the British scientist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) He published his ideas in a book entitled “The Origin of species by means of natural selection” In this book he propounded this theory of evolution
- He argued that all living things must have evolved from simple forms of life



● They have undergone change or transformation over millions of years through environmental

- i. mutation
- ii. natural selection,
- iii. isolation and
- iv. adaptation

● This theory holds that human beings and primates (monkeys, gorillas, and chimpanzees) had a common ancestry, but the two followed different evolutionary paths

● Humans belong to the Hominidae family while Apes belong to the Pongidae family.

Evolution of Man

Evolution is a slow or gradual process of change, taking place over millions of years

- ❖ During this evolutionary process, man has undergone physical, intellectual and cultural development
- ❖ Man who is a mammal of the order primates shares common characteristics with other primates. These include:-
 - ❑ Forward facing eyes with stereoscopic vision
 - ❑ Hands and feet with mobile fingers and toes
 - ❑ Large brains relative to body size
 - ❑ General social behavior
 - ❑ These common characteristics suggest that man and other primates shared a common ancestor at some time during the evolutionary history

- ❖ While man belongs to the Hominidae family group, that of Apes is the Pongidae family
- ❖ Through Evolution and Environmental adaptation man became separated from his apelike ancestors (Pithecuses), thus marking the appearance of hominids (man's ancestors).
- ❖ Information obtained from archaeologists has proved that Africa, and particularly East Africa is the cradle of mankind.

Why Africa is regarded as the cradle of mankind

- ❖ The presence of savannah grasslands where early man could hunt and gather food.
- ❖ The warm Tropical climate ideal for early man's existence.
- ❖ Permanent rivers that provided early man with vital water supplies
- ❖ Geographically, Africa was centrally located making it possible for early man to spread to other regions as the continents were drifting
- ❖ Discovery of numerous archaeological sites in Africa where early fossils have been located.

Archaeological sites in Africa

Kenya

- Rusinga
- Fort Ternan
- Kariandusi
- Olorgesailie
- Koobi for

Tanzania

- Olduvai George
- Peninji
- Isimila
- Kalambo
- Garusi
- Apis Rock
- Eyasi

Uganda

- Msongezi
- Napak
- Paraa
- Mweya
- Nyero
- Magosi
- Ishango
- Nyabusora

Ethiopia

- Omo valley
- Hadar

South Africa

Limestone caves
of

- Kromdraai
- Makapansgat
- Swartkrans
- Skerckfontein

Characteristics

- ❑ Had quadrupedal movement
- ❑ Smooth forehead
- ❑ Projecting face

Stages of evolution of Man

Man evolved through several stages:

Aegyptopithecus (Egyptian Ape)

- Earliest probable ancestor of man
- Lived in thick forests
- Its monkey-like skull was discovered at the Faiyum depression in Egypt
- Dated as 33 million years old.



Characteristics:

- ☐ Quadrupedal creature (walked on 4 limbs)
- ☐ Weighed 4 kilograms
- ☐ Had a stereoscopic vision
- ☐ Had developed the arm swing and hence could jump skillfully from tree to tree
- ☐ Had enclosed eye sockets
- ☐ Had 32 teeth

Dryopithecus Africanus (Proconsul/woodland ape)

- ❑ Lived at about 20 and 25 million years ago in thick forests which covered most of Africa and Asia
- ❑ The skull and Limb bones were discovered at Rusinga Island on Lake Victoria by Louis and Mary Leakey in 1948
- ❑ The Leakey's nicknamed it Proconsul
- ❑ Similar fossils have been found in Europe and South East Asia.
- ❑ Had long canine teeth for eating fruit, tearing flesh and stripping barks of trees



Kenyapithecus (Ramapithecus)

Kenyapithecus

- ❖ The name Kenyapithecus was given to the fossils found at a small prehistoric site called fort Ternan in Kericho District
- ❖ The remains were discovered by Dr. L. Leakey in 1961 and dated 15 and 12 million years ago
- ❖ There are other archaeological sites in Kenya which have yielded fossils of Kenyapithecus. These include: -
 - ❖ Samburu Hills
 - ❖ Lothagam and Kanapoi in the Lake Turkana Basin.
 - ❖ Ngorora in the Lake Baringo Basin
 - ❖ The habitat of this creature was dominated by open savanna woodland.



Characteristics

- ❑ Had a slightly protruding jaw which was massive and strong
- ❑ Smaller canines than those of true apes
- ❑ Small primate with 32 teeth of various sizes
- ❑ Short face
- ❑ Enlarged brain
- ❑ Had quadrupedal movement but occasionally walked on two legs hence was developing bipedalism.
- ❑ Ramapithecus
- ❑ Remains similar to those of the Kenyapithecus were found at siwalikis hills in Northern India and named

Ramapithecus.

Characteristics

- ❑ A small primate weighing between 18 and 36kg
- ❑ Had a bigger brain with a volume of 400 cc
- ❑ Had smaller teeth used for chewing seeds, roots, meat and other foods
- ❑ Had massive jaws.
- ❑ Various sites in Europe, that is, in Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Spain and Hungary and others in Asia (China, Turkey) have yielded fossils similar to those of the Ramapithecus.



Australopithecus (Zinjanthropus)

- ❑ Australopithecus is the name of a several species that has been found in a various places in Africa, dating from 5 to 1 million ago
- ❑ Fossils of Australopithecus were first discovered in South Africa, and hence the use of the term Southern monkey
- ❑ The various species of Australopithecus include:



Australopithecus Anamensis

- Dated four million years ago. The fossils were discovered at Kenapoi and Allia Bay around Lake Turkana by a team of archaeologists led by Dr. Meave Leakey and Dr. Allan Walker.

Australopithecus Africanus or A. Gracilis

- Also known as the southern Ape of Africa
- A fossil of this species was first found at Taung
- Dated 3-2.5 million years ago
- Average height was 1.5 metres.

Australopithecus robustus and boisei

- ❑ The two represented the same species but occupied different regions
- ❑ *Australopithecus robustus* was a strongly built hominid
- ❑ The creature had massive jaws a brain of about 530 cc and weighed about 68 kg
- ❑ His diet included raw tubers, fruits and nu
- ❑ He lived between 2 — 1.5 million years ago
- ❑ *Australopithecus Boisei* lived in East Africa and a skull dated 2.5 million years ago was discovered near Lake Turkana. The creature had protruding jaws, massive muscles and flat teeth which indicated a vegetarian diet.




Other remains of the *Australopithecus* family have been found at

- Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania by Mary Leaky and named *zinjanthropus*
- Lake Natron in Tanzania
- Omo River Valley in Ethiopia
- Lake Turkana and Lake Baringo in Kenya.

Characteristics

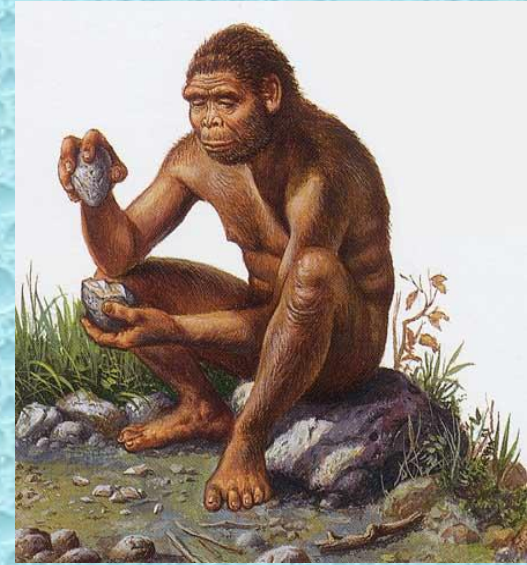
- ☐ Bipedalism/upright posture and hence could:
- ☐ Defend themselves better on a 2 footed posture
- ☐ Easily see impending danger from far.
- ☐ Conveniently carry food and the young
- ☐ Spot animals for food
- ☐ Grasp objects firmly
- ☐ Had hairy bodies

- ❑ Short in stature
- ❑ Strong
- ❑ Had a low forehead
- ❑ Had a stereoscopic vision and deep-set eyes
- ❑ Smaller brain capacity (between 430-550 cc) than that of modern man
- ❑ Had a large face as suggested by the creatures fossils
- ❑ Had large teeth
- ❑ Skull and jaws were larger than that of modern man's.

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Homo Habilis (man with ability)

- ❑ This was the oldest known species of the genus Homo
- ❑ The earliest remains that have been assigned the genus homo were discovered in the East African Region
- ❑ Homo Habilis refer to people with ability (practical or handy man)
- ❑ This is because Habilis were tool makers. The fossils were discovered at Olduvai Gorge in 1964 by Jonathan Leaky
- ❑ They were dated 2.5 and 1.5 million years ago. Fossils bones have also been discovered
- ❑ at Omo River Valley and Hadar in Ethiopia and also at Koobi Fora on the Eastern part of Lake Turkana by Richard Leaky and Kamoya Kimeu.



Characteristics:

- ❑ The skeleton was smaller than that of modern man — a height of 1.5 metres
- ❑ Had a bigger brain around 680 cc. This increased brain power contributed to the manufacture of stone tools. The earliest stone and wooden tools were found together with the fossil of Homo Habilis
- ❑ Was Omnivorous.

Homo Erectus (upright man)

- ❑ Homo Erectus or 'erect man' emerged into Homo Habilis between 1.6 million years ago and 300,000 years ago
- ❑ The fossils of this hominid were discovered at hadar in Ethiopia
- ❑ In 1984, Kamoya Kimeu found a million — year-old skeleton of this species near Nariokotome River on the North-Western shore of Lake Turkana
- ❑ Other remains of Homo Erectus have been found in many parts of the world including Asia. Europe and America



- ❑ Thus Homo Erectus successfully spread to other parts of the world
- ❑ There is evidence that Homo Erectus was already in North America 500,000 years ago
- ❑ From here, he moved southwards and by 350,000 years ago, he appeared in Brazil. This is indicated by stone tools found in Toca da Esperanca to the North East of Rio de Janeiro
- ❑ Homo Erectus also spread to countries of Europe such as France, Spain and Hungary
- ❑ In Asia, where he is referred to as Java man or Peking man, his remains have been found in India, China and Indonesia.

Characteristics:

- ☐ Upright walking posture (which closely resembled that of modern man)
- ☐ Had a higher brain capacity than his predecessors. (It averaged 1000 cc.)
- ☐ Was about 5 feet , 6 inches in height
- ☐ Was omnivorous (smaller in stature than modern man)
- ☐ Communicated with a more advanced speech than his predecessors

- ❑ Possessed a prominent brow-ridge over the eye.

Note:

- ❑ Homo Erectus made more complex and sophisticated artifacts than earlier hominids. Such included stone and bone tools and weapons (crude spears, hand-axes and arrow heads)
- ❑ He also invented fire and possessed skilled hunting techniques
- ❑ There is also some evidence of communal like and work among the Homo Erectus.

Homo sapiens

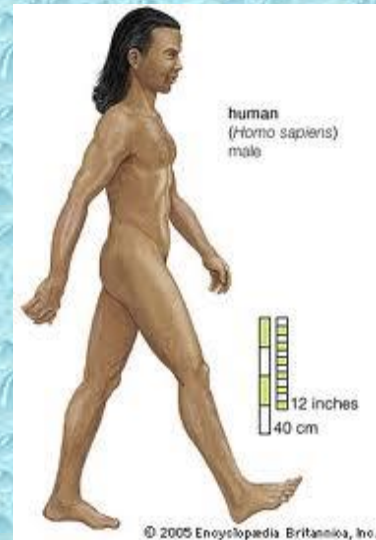
This hominid dated 0.5 million years 250,000 years

This hominid has several divisions namely

- a) Rhodesian man :
- b) Cro-Magnon man
- c) Neanderthal man

It was discovered in places like

Zambia (Northern Rhodesia) France Neander Valley (Europe) Steinham (West Germany), 1933 Banks of River Thames and Swanscombe (England), France, Belgium, Gibraltar, Italy, Yugoslavia, Middle East



Characteristics

- ❑ Straight legs
- ❑ Brain same size as modern humans, though walked like an ape
- ❑ Made tools for cutting and scraping
- ❑ Larger brain than *Homo erectus*
- ❑ Height 5 ft 5 inches
- ❑ Used hand-axes to make stone tools for hunting animals

Homo sapiens sapiens

Dated 50,000 years

Discovered in places like:

Africa, Asia, France,
America, Australia



Homo sapiens sapiens was/is characterized mainly by:

- ☐ High intellectual capacity (had higher brain capacity than his predecessors) -
- ☐ Made more complex artifacts than earlier hominids using flint, stone, iron, wood, horn
- ☐ Caught fish with bone harpoons
- ☐ Cleaned animal hides with scrapers
- ☐ Made garments with bone needles
- ☐ Made fire, pots and cooked
- ☐ Built shelter/huts
- ☐ Hunted and gathered
- ☐ Began to domesticate crops and animals
- ☐ Became sedentary.

Cultural and Economic Practices of Early Man

Meaning of terms

- ❑ **Culture** refers to all aspects of mans way of life such as language, values, behaviour, social structure, among others. This encompasses man's means of livelihood and occupations (hunting, gathering, fishing, arts and crafts etc)
- ❑ **Economic** practices are the techniques utilized by man to exploit his environment for his livelihood.
- ❑ **Stone Age** refers to a period in history when man widely used stones to make tools, weapons and leather artifacts.
- ❑ The term stone age' is mainly applied in region's in Africa, south of the Sahara. The term Paleolitbic (Greek word meaning old stone) is used in North Africa, the Nile valley, Europe and Asia.

- ❑ Archaeologists have further sub-divided the Stone Age into 3 periods, namely:-
- ❑ Old Stone Age/ Earlier Stone Age! Lower Paleolithic:
3,000,000 - 100,000 years ago
- ❑ Middle stone Age/Middle Paleolithic: 100,000 —
200,000 years ago
- ❑ New stone Age/late Stone Age/Upper Paleolithic:
200,000 — 1,500 years ago

Old Stone Age

Features

(a) weapons and tools

1st phase:

use of simple stone tools prevailed

- ❑ Such tools were found at Koobi fora, near Lake Thrkana and dated almost 3 million years ago
- ❑ Other such tools were discovered at Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania by Katwinkel in 1911. They were dated about 1.8 million years ago.
- ❑ The collection of these tools and the related culture were known as Oldowan, after Olduvai Gorge. Oldowan tools were pebble tools (made from pebbles) the tools had no handle. One of the earliest such tools was called the fist Hatchet.



● Other Oldowan tools have been unearthed in:

- Omo valley in Ethiopia
- Kafu valley in Uganda
- North-East Angola
- Shaba province in Zaire
- Tunisia
- Morocco
- Algeria

● Oldowan tools were manufactured by
Australopithecus and Homo Habilis

2nd phase:

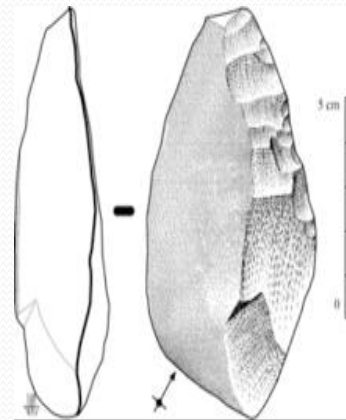
- ❑ It occurred between 1,500,000 — 100,000 years ago
- ❑ It was characterized by the making of Acheulian tools (named after saint-Acheulian in the somme valley, northern France where the tools were first discovered)
- ❑ These tools first appeared in East Africa about 1.5 million years ago at:-
 - ❑ Koobi Fora near L. Turkana
 - ❑ Olorgesailie, kariandusi and chesowanja in Kenya
 - ❑ Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania
 - ❑ In Uganda
- ❑ Archaeologists have further unearthed evidence in Africa from Hadar in Ethiopia, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, South Africa, Mauritania, Senegal, Guinea, Algeria and Egypt

Acheulian tools have also been discovered in India, parts of the Middle East and Britain

Acheulian tools were made using advanced and sophisticated stone-working techniques. This involved flaking a core stone on both sides to give a pointed and longer cutting edges on the

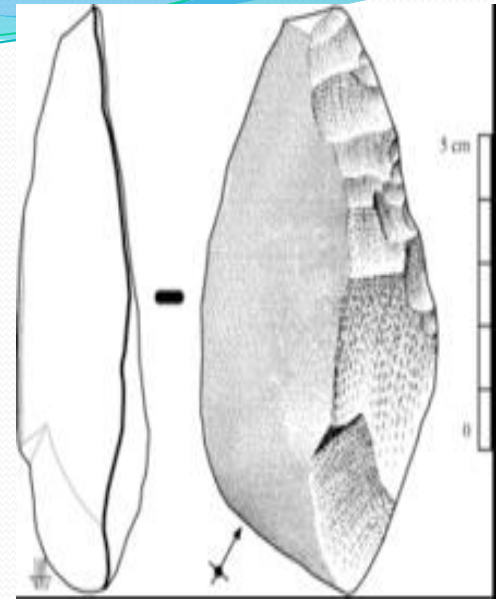
Such tools included:

- ☐ Choppers or hand-axes
- ☐ Cleavers
- ☐ Scrapers
- ☐ Picks
- ☐ Arrowheads and spearheads
- ☐ Wooden implements such as digging sticks and clubs



Uses of Acheulian tools:-

- ❑ Digging up roots
- ❑ Skinning animals
- ❑ Cutting a shaping wood a bone
- ❑ Crushing bones for marrow.
- ❑ Acheulian tools were manufactured by Homo erectus.



(b) Clothing

- ☐ The Old Stone Age people wore no clothes
- ☐ They were kept warm by their hairy bodies.

(c) Shelter

- ☐ The Old Stone Age people had not learnt the art of building houses
- ☐ They mainly slept on trees or tree trunks to avoid the threat of wild animals
- ☐ Research undertaken at Olduvai Gorge by Louis and Mary Leakey at Melka Kunture in Ethiopia has yielded a semi-circular group of natural stones, an indication of a hiding place
- ☐ They also sheltered in stone caves and rock shelters.

(d) Food

- ☐ The Old Stone Age people ate raw food
- ☐ They acquired such food by hunting and gathering (insects, birds, eggs).

(e) Hunting techniques

- ❑ These included:-
- ❑ Chasing wild animals and throwing pebbles at them
- ❑ Digging holes and along the paths that animals used as they went to drink water. The holes would be concealed with twigs and unsuspecting animals would be trapped
- ❑ Chasing animals over steep cliff, causing them to fall and break their limbs
- ❑ Driving the animals into muddy or swampy areas where they would get stuck
- ❑ Man would also ensnare the animals around watering points.

Middle Stone Age (100,000-20,000 years ago)

Features

(a) Tool making

1st phase (100,000-40,000 years ago)

- ❑ Middle Stone Age made improved tools and weapons
- ❑ They were smaller, lighter, thinner sharper and more convenient
- ❑ Hafting was a new technique:- When resins from trees tough plant fibre and strip of animal skin or sinew were used to join a stone flake to a stone handle.
- ❑ A variety of tools were made in various regions, for example: Sangoan tools — named after Sango Bay on the western side of L. Victoria in Tanzania where the tools were first discovered. Such included scrapers and picks (chisel-picks, plane picks, dagger picks)
- ❑ Fauresmith tools — named after the site where they were 1st discovered in Orange Free State in South Africa. They included hand-axes, flake tools and scrapers.



2nd phase (40,000 — 15,000 years ago)

- ☐ The tools were further refined
- ☐ They were made using the levallois technique
- ☐ It entailed the slaking of stones from a core stone and producing smaller thinner tools such Included:-
 - Stone lance heads (lupemban industries)
 - made by forest dwellers
 - made using stone and wood
 - Used in fishing.

Still bay (from still Bay, Cape province, South Africa)

- ☐ Made by savanna dwellers
- ☐ Mainly spear points
- ☐ Used for game hunting

Mousterian

- ☐ Made by people living along the Nile valley in Egypt, North Africa and Europe
- ☐ Included fine points and scrapers.

(b) Invention of Fire

Fire was beneficial to man in various ways:-

- ❑ Provided warmth during cold nights
- ❑ Flames of fire gave man light at night
- ❑ Enhanced man's security by keeping off the threat of predators
- ❑ Fire was used to harden and strengthen tools such as spear shafts
- ❑ Used in hunting to scare wild animals to areas where they would be trapped (cliffs, swampy and muddy areas) and to extract poisons for hunting
- ❑ Enabled man to cook his food. The food would thus be soft, free of poison, flavoured and nutritious
- ❑ Used to communicate — use of fire and smoke signals
- ❑ It was used as a food preservative. Middle age man used fire for drying meat and fish.

Note: Fire enabled man to occupy diverse environments. Man was no longer limited to the warm savanna. He migrated to other parts of the world.

(c) Food

- ☐ Middle Stone Age man ate cooked food
- ☐ He obtained the food through hunting and gathering but had greatly improved his skills.

(d) Clothes

- ☐ Man wore animal skins
- ☐ Made shells and necklaces using seeds or bones
- ☐ Painted his body with red ochre and oil.

(e)Shelter

- ❑ Middle Stone Age man initially used artificial shelters for example:
 - ❑- Orangia in Southern Africa
 - ❑- Olorgesailie near Nakuru in Kenya
- ❑ Later on, he started living in caves and rock shelters
- ❑ These offered protection from the rain and prevailing winds
- ❑ Examples of such shelters are:
 - ❑ Matupi caves in Zaire
 - ❑ Gamble's cave near L. Nakuru in Kenya
 - ❑ Dar es Soltan cave in South Africa.

(f) Language

During this period, people settled in small but close communities, assisting each other particularly during times of hardship

Hence language developed to reinforce social bonds and cultures.

(g) Rock Art

Middle Stone Age people painted pictures of animals they hunted such as the reindeer and elephants on cave walls such paintings have been found in e.g.

Kondoa and Singida in North Central Tanzania

Apollo II cave in Southern Africa.

(h) Religious Practices

Burial customs of the Neanderthal man have pointed to a belief in spirits and the after life.

The Late Stone Age (15,000 years ago — 1,500 A.D)

Features

(a) Weapons and Tools



- ❑ They were made by Homo Sapiens
- ❑ There was further improvement of the Stone Age technology
- ❑ This period was marked by the microlithic tools (small tools)
- ❑ One of the typical microliths was a tool with a sharp cutting edge and a curved blunted back, known as a crescent or lunate
- ❑ Composite tools were also manufactured. They were made by fixing several —microliths in wooden or bone shafts such fishing harpoons (barbed spears). Saw-blades arrowheads, bone-needles, bows and arrows
- ❑ Between 12,000 — 7,000 years ago the Caspian industry emerged in many parts c Africa such as Algeria and Tunisia
- ❑ Tools made included scrapers and long backed blades, drillers, borers. The Kenya Caspian industries and culture was characterized by long-bladed tools made from obsidian (a local volcanic rock).



(b) Beginning of a settled life /shelter

- ❑ People settled down in villages of about 1000 members and hence became sedentary
- ❑ They erected huts of reeds, mud, grass, tree branches and plastered with clay or covered with hides.

(c) Art and Crafts

- ❑ Rock shelters were decorated with hunting scenes and animal paintings. Rock paintings depicting animal's languages have been found in France and Spain. Others are found in:
 - Kondoia (Tanzania)
 - Ennedi in Chad
 - Ekker in Algeria
 - Namimbia
 - S. Africa
- ❑ People decorated themselves with beads made of seed bone and ostrich eggs shells and painted their bodies with red ochre
- ❑ Moreover, they made rough baskets, could spin and weave flax and learnt how to make pots.

● (d) Clothing

Using bone needles, people were able to sew together skin clothing.

● (e) Religion

● Rites and ceremonies were performed

● New Stone Age man was religious and believed in life after death

● Flint axes, animal bones and scrapers etc.; with dead bodies have been unearthed by archaeologists in various sites and yielded information indicating that New Stone Age

● people buried the dead with their property.

● Examples of such sites are the

● Njoro River Cave (Kenya)

● Hyrax Hill (Kenya)

● Magosi (Uganda).



(f) Government

- ☐ Once man became sedentary, rules and regulations were required.
- ☐ Leadership systems developed.
- ☐ These became the basis of the civil society.

g) Development of Agriculture

- ☐ Homo sapiens continued to hunt and gather but gradually began the domestication of plants and animals.
- ☐ He became a food producer.

The End

