KEY CONCEPT 1.1: BIG GEOGRAPHY & THE PEOPLING OF THE EARTH

BIG GEOGRAPHY = GLOBAL SCALE OF WORLD HISTORY

- By 10,000 BCE, everywhere humans are now; we were then
- Homo Sapiens originated in AFRICA 200,000 years ago
- Homo Sapiens left Africa about 60,000 years ago
  - Known as the “OUT-OF-AFRICA” theory
- Early Humans adapted to their surroundings
  - From desert to forest to tundra
- Hunter/forager societies were egalitarian
  - Evident from the egalitarian nature of today’s H/F
- Humans were “behaviorally modern” before migration

HUMAN USE OF FIRE

- Human used fire in new ways helped them survive
- Controlled human use of fire dates vary (from 500,000 years ago to 1.7 million years ago)
- Widespread use of human control of fire is accepted to have occurred around 125,000 years ago
- Most accepted earliest site was nearly 800,000 years ago in Israel
- Firesites have evidence of different meats (from birds to rhinos) & plants (from oats to grapes)
- Human use of fire allowed them to adapt to a wide range of climates/biomes/temperatures

HUMAN USE OF TOOLS

- Homo erectus (& later sapien) used tools to adapt
- The first tool using hominids were Australopithecus afarensis (aka Lucy’s people) in Ethiopia
- Hominids carved meat off of bones, extracted marrow, & general butchery
  - Meat consumption drove early tool use
- Hunter/foragers survived in small kinship bands
- Small bands were based on family/kinship ties
- Full time leaders, bureaucrats, artisans, etc. could not be supported
- Myth: Men hunt/women forage
  - Women & men shared in both hunting/foraging
- “Original affluent society” theory states that H/G lived much easier lives than we do
  - Hunter/foragers worked much less & had more freetime than we do today

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