

# The Peopling of Australia and the New World

Only modern *Homo sapiens* spread to the  
farthest reaches of the world:

into Siberia

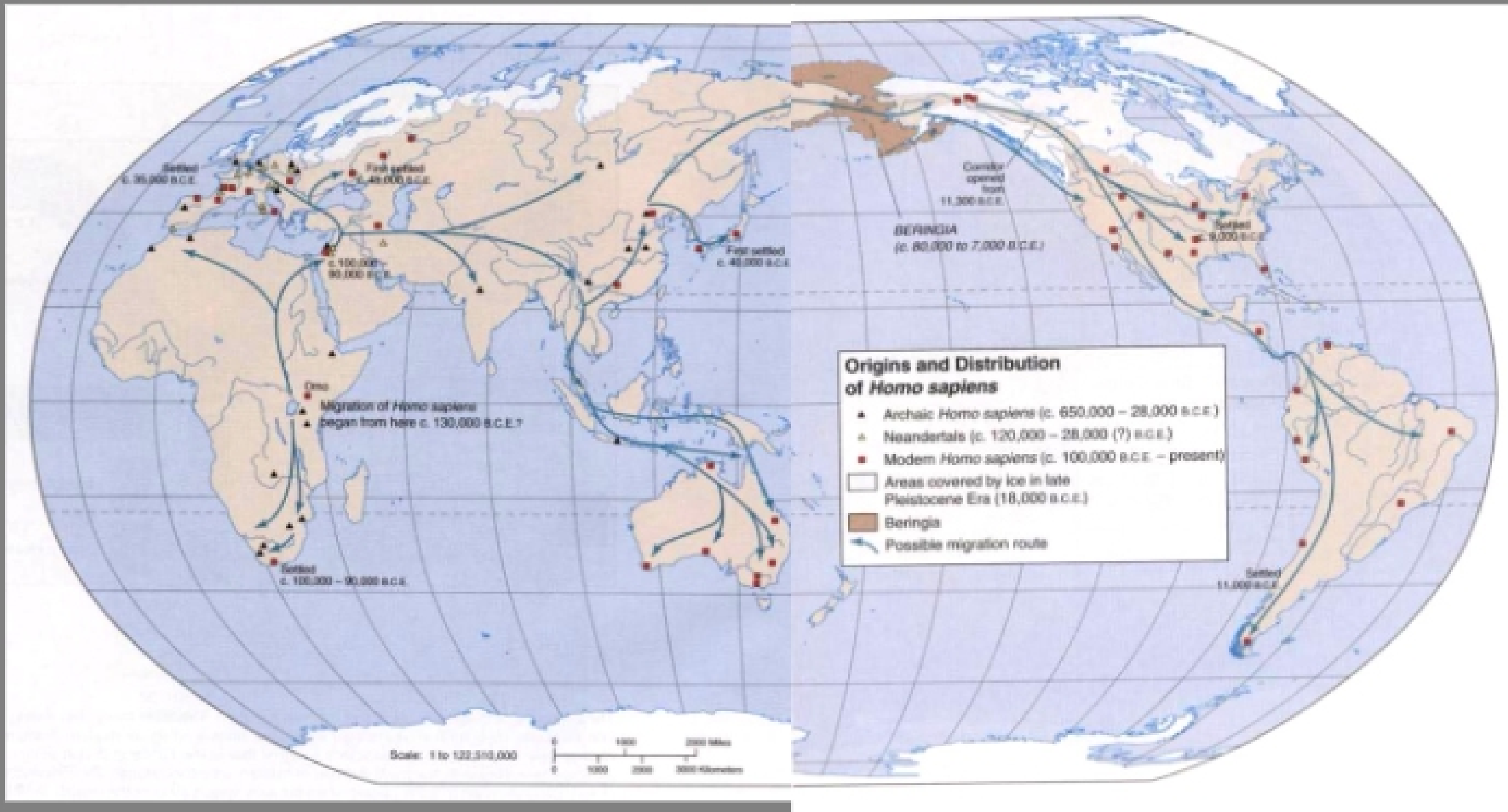
Australia

New World (North-Central-South America)

Remember, this spread occurred during  
the Pleistocene, the Ice Age,

When glaciation caused low sea levels,  
allowing some land masses to be joined

# Spread of modern *H. sapiens*



(Kottak 2005 Atlas)

The Indo-Malaysian Archipelago contains two very different biogeographical regions.

Hence they supported rich Asian placental mammal faunas and were colonized by *Homo erectus*, perhaps as early as 1.8 mya



Light-colored areas indicate land exposed during glaciation