

Upper Paleolithic Art & Peopling of the Pacific

A. Modern Behavior

a. "Upper Paleolithic Revolution"

i. Last division of Paleolithic Age

1. c. 40,000-10,000 BP

2. AKA Late Stone Age (in Africa)

b. More clothing (hides, fur, textiles)

c. More personal ornaments – status, group identity?

d. Specialized hunting

i. Large-range tools (e.g. bow & arrow, harpoon, atlatl) used to minimize risk of injury

e. Larger settlements (25-50 people)

i. Mezrhirich site (Ukraine)

ii. Several mammoth bone huts

f. UP Burials

i. Ornaments, tools, red ocher pigmentation

ii. Funerary rituals?

g. Sungir site (Russia)

i. Adults & adolescents

ii. Beaded clothing, red ocher, thousands of ivory beads, long spears

iii. Adolescents with grave goods – significance?

B. Upper Paleolithic Culture(s)

a. Gravettian Culture (c. 27,000 BP)

i. Type site: La Gravette (France)

b. Big-game hunting

c. Small pointed blades (stone)

d. Burins used in crafting & craving

e. Symbolic expression

f. "Venus" (female) figurines

i. Ceramic, stone, ivory, bone

ii. Fertility? Ritual? Art? Porn?

g. Gravettian Culture

h. Expression – music (flute from animal bones)

i. Use-wear analysis

C. Upper Paleolithic "Art"

a. Portable & stationary, such as:

i. Figurines, ornaments

ii. Cave paintings

b. Altamira Cave (Spain)

i. Polychrome paintings

ii. Paleolithic artifacts on floor

c. Food animals (reindeer, bison, mammoth, horses, some fish)

i. Dangerous animals (bears, hyenas, lions, rhinos)

ii. Art? History? Ritual? Visions?

d. Lascaux Caves (France)

i. c. 17,000 BP

ii. 2,000 figurines (animals, human figures and abstract signs)

D. Upper Paleolithic "Art"

a. Chauvet Cave

b. Hundreds of animal paintings

c. Prey and predators

d. C₁₄ dating of pigments: c. 35,000 BP

E. Earlier signs of "modern" behavior

a. Middle Paleolithic (Middle Stone Age in Africa)

b. Africa – early microliths & blades, bone/antler

i. **Katanda (Democratic Republic of Congo)**

ii. Bone tools

iii. Similar to later harpoon tips of Euro UP

c. **Blombos Cave (South Africa)**

i. 73,000 BP

ii. Bone tools, shell beads

iii. Engraved red ocher fragments

d. **Sidubu Cave (South Africa)**

i. c. 60,000 BP

ii. Use of *ethnoanthropology* used to see how these societies lived in the past

iii. Small bone points

1. Transition from larger spear points?

2. Earliest use of bow & arrow?

F. Late Pleistocene Period

a. Lower sea levels

i. Up to 150 meters below present levels

ii. **Modern sea levels reached c. 7,000 BP**

b. Lower sea levels: more coastal shelves exposed

G. Late Pleistocene Southeast Asia & Australia

a. Upper Paleolithic (Late Pleistocene)

i. c. 35,000-10,000 BP

b. Exposed continental shelves

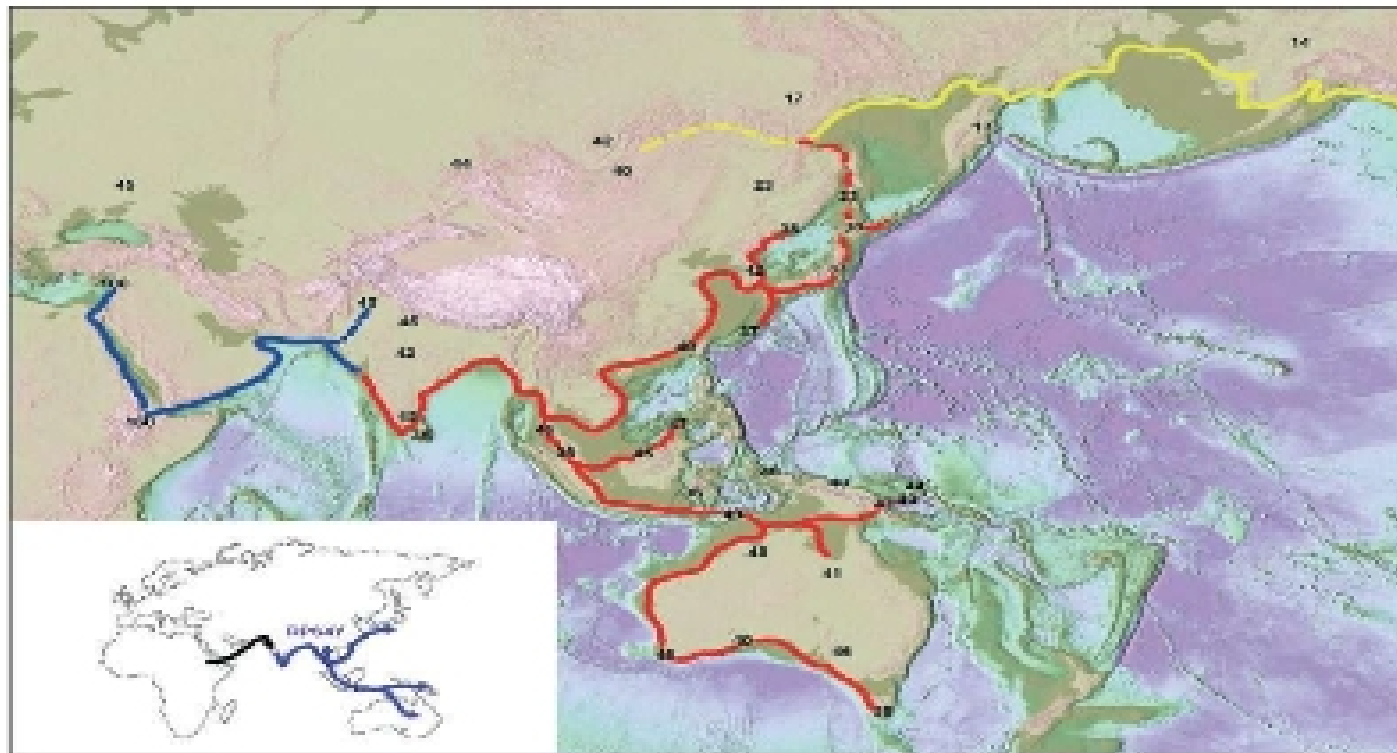
c. **Sunda & Sahul**

d. Australia reachable only by boat

e. **Wallace Line** – ecozone boundary

H. Peopling of Asia/Pacific – Two Routes?

- a. "Out of Africa" Models/Variants
- b. Archaeological & genetic data
- c. **Southern migration route** (red on map) along the coast
- d. Sometime after **60,000 BP**



I. Moving along coastal areas?

- a. Relatively rapid
 - i. Within 5,000-10,000 years
 - ii. Coastal adaptation and watercraft use
- b. Later migration northward
- c. Alternative model
 - i. "Pincer" or "overlapping"
 - ii. Two routes

