Dawn of Humanity

Got MEAT?

Chapters 7-8

"Who Dunnit?"
Archaeological detective work

Early tool sites
Rift Valley

Why use tools?

New opportunities

Earliest sites
Ethiopian Rift > 2.5 mya
Gona & Bouri
**Artifacts**

**Manufactured or modified**

- Other similar rocks
- River gravels
- Haphazard breaks

**Natural ?**

**Artificial ?**

- Out of context
- Transported
- Systematic breaks
- Fracture patterns

**Artifacts: simple, effective**

**Tools for what?**

- Hammerstones
- Sharp cutting edges
  - Cores
  - flakes

**Similarities? Differences?**
Evidence of butchery

- cutmarks
- Bone splinters with percussion marks

Importance of meat?

Rich Diet:
- complete protein
- marrow & fat (calories)

Dependable?
- daily?
- Seasonal?
- rare treat?
- Strategy?
- Hunting?
- Scavenging?

Society:
- social currency
- collaboration
- sharing
  - risks & rewards

Tools appear before Homo

present  humans
1
2 2.6 my
3
4
5
6
7

Who's tools?

Oldowan tools

1 my
1.2 my
1.5 my
2 my
2.3 my
2.6 my
3 my

Butcher of Bouri?
**Australopithecus garhi**

- Ape-sized brain
- Huge cheek teeth but not “robust”

**Who dunnit?**

- Opportunity?
- Ability?
- Motive?

**Olduvai Gorge**

- Archaeological sites
  - "Oldowan technology"
  - 2 myr

**Who made & used the tools?**

- Australopithecus boisei
- Homo habilis

**Who dunnit?**

- Opportunity?
- Ability?
  - Dexterity
  - Intelligence
- Motive?
  - Diet?

**Ability to make and use tools?**

- Something special about **stone** tools?

- Robust Australopithecines
- Early Homo
  - 350 cc
  - 500 cc
  - 600 - 750 cc
**Human hand**

- Shorter fingers

- Longer thumb

**Dexterity?**

**Human hand**

**Kanzi:** Pan the toolmaker

- Robust Australopithecines
- Early Homo
- Precision Grip: Australopithecines & Homo

Opposable thumb: LCA

**Kanzi tools**

**Who dunnit?**

- Opportunity ?
- Ability ?
- Brains dexterity
- Motive ?
- diet

Who dunnit?

Opportunity

Ability

Brains dexterity

Motive

diet

Tools

Brains

Dexterity

Motive

Diet