

hypotheses

From historical archaeology to early hominids

Jefferson's slaves



Alternative hypotheses ?

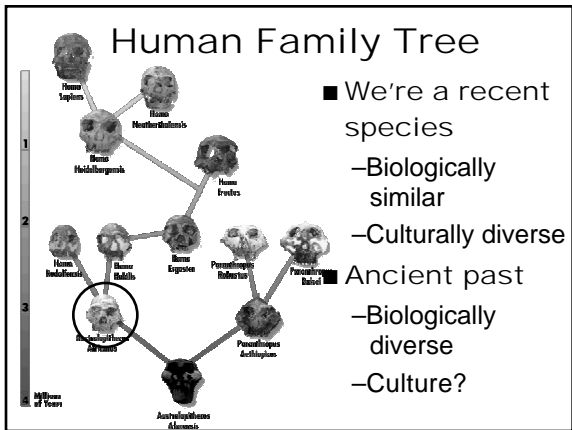
- Does finding "fancy" artifacts in the slave quarters at Monticello mean that Jefferson treated his slaves better than most slave owners?

Our family tree: cultural roots?

- African origins of *Hominidae* – Text: pp 12-26
- How can we recognize the first artifacts?



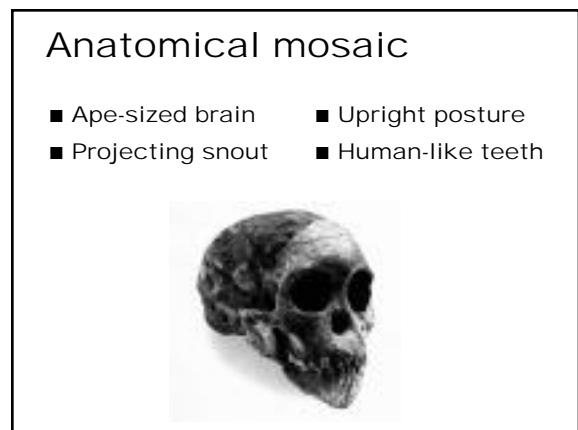
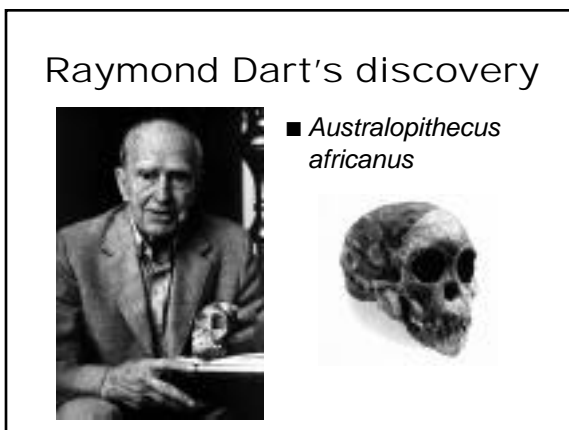
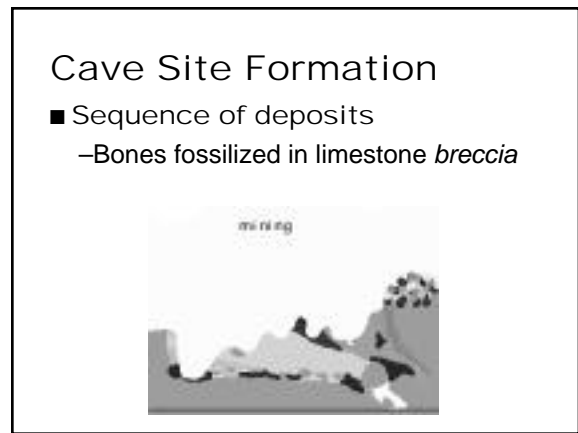
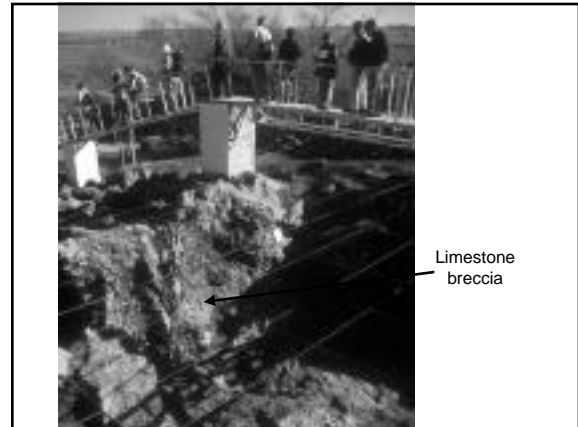
Human Family Tree



- We're a recent species
- Biologically similar
- Culturally diverse
- Ancient past
- Biologically diverse
- Culture?

South African Cave sites





Missing Link?



Recent fossil discoveries

- Complete skeleton !
- >3mya



Did they have "culture"?

- Dart thought they did!
 - Australopithecines + animal bones
- Osteo-Donto-Keratic Culture
 - "Bone-tooth-horn"

Dart's criteria?

- What evidence did he use to support his argument?
 - Examples of evidence?



Killer Apes !



Can you think of an alternative hypothesis?

- Bob Brain's alternative:
 - How can bones get into caves?
 - Text pp 24-26



Summary

- Osteo-donto-keratic "culture" hypothesis not supported
- *Australopithecus africanus* was not a mighty hunter, but more likely one of the hunted