

**Key Terms, Concepts and Characters**

September 14 and 19, 2006: Becoming Human

Geological Time Scale

The three most recent Epochs of the Cenozoic Era

Holocene = Recent (10,000 yrs. to present)

Pleistocene (1.8 mil. yrs. to 10,000 yrs.)

Pliocene (5 mil. yrs to 1.8 mil. yrs.)

Earlier hominids aka. hominins (bipeds in the Family Hominidae)

*Australopithecus*

*Paranthropus* (aka *Australopithecus*)

early *Homo* - *habilis* and *rudolfensis*

*Homo ergaster* = early *Homo erectus*

*Homo erectus*

*Homo heidelbergensis*

*Homo neanderthalensis*

*Homo sapiens (sapiens)* = us

Laetoli (Tanzania)

*A. afarensis* (inc. Lucy)

Shungura Formation (Ethiopia)

FtJi2

Lokalalei 2C (west Turkana Kenya)

refits

Olduvai Gorge

DK1

manuports

Oldowan industry

choppers

discoids

flakes (unretouched)

home base model - central place foraging

**The prehistoric culture-stratigraphic nomenclatural framework**

Earlier archaeological “cultures” (technocomplexes or industrial complexes) and their technological basis

*(most recent)*

“Neolithic” - various named regional and local entities  
ground stone technology, blade technology

“Mesolithic” - numerous named regional and local entities (Later Stone Age)  
hard hammer, soft hammer, indirect percussion, pressure techniques  
blade technology, geometric microliths

“Upper Palaeolithic” - numerous named regional and local entities (Later Stone Age)  
hard hammer, soft hammer, indirect percussion  
blade technology, backed blades, burins, geometric microliths

“Middle Palaeolithic” - several regional variants (Middle Stone Age)  
Mousterian (Europe and Middle East only)  
hard hammer, soft hammer - prepared core techniques, retouched  
flake tools

“Lower Palaeolithic” (Early Stone Age)  
Acheulean  
hard hammer, soft hammer - biface techniques  
Oldowan  
hard hammer - simple choppers and flakes

*(earliest)*