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 erectus* = early *Homo erectus*

- *Homo heidelbergensis*

- *Homo neanderthalensis*

- *Homo sapiens (sapiens) = us*
Laetoli (Tanzania)

*A. afarensis* (inc. Lucy)

Shungura Formation (Ethiopia)

Fuji2

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)*