



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants Curriculum

EFLA STUDY GUIDE

UNIT 1: Ancient Africa (200,000 B.C.E. – 476 A.C.E.)

CLASS 2: Out of Africa - The Origins of Humanity *Part 2*

OVERVIEW

Class 2 continues with Part 2 of Journey of Man - The Story of Human Species. Part 2 of the documentary picks up with the Cro-magnon people, the earliest known homo sapiens to inhabit Europe. The term Cro-magnon has no formal [taxonomic](#) status, as it refers neither to a species or subspecies nor to an archaeological phase or culture. "Cro" is Occitan (a Romance language) for hole or cavity, and Magnon is said to be the name of the owner of the land in Les Eyzies, Dordogne, France where the cave these early Europeans lived in was found. It is mentioned that these early Europeans interbred with Neanderthals. Is this significant to the DNA sequencing of modern homo sapiens? This question will be explored in the articles presented in this class.

Next, the documentary continues with the human migration from Eurasia, via Siberia, to the Western Hemisphere across a now buried land bridge that once connected Siberia to Alaska. This is when the first Native Americans populated what is now North America and South America. Although the documentary does not discuss it, venerable African scholar Ivan Van Sertima has presented compelling evidence that Africans visited North America before Columbus. He presents his claims in the pioneering work aptly titled, *"They Came Before Columbus."*

The supplemental material for these first two classes includes a documentary that discusses the early [hominids](#) that came before modern homo sapiens (human beings) including "Lucy." There are two articles that discuss and analyze the oldest human remains found in Omo, Ethiopia and Africa as the origin of all homo sapiens. There is a vivid map of human origins in Africa and their migration dates and patterns out of Africa into the other continents. There is a link to a nonprofit organization that is assisting the remaining San Bushmen (the people presented in Part 1 of the Journey of Man documentary) fight to retain their land and preserve their culture and way of life is it is being threatened by encroachment of "modernization."

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson, students will be able to:

- ✓ Analyze the prevailing scientific theories on the origins of human beings.
- ✓ Describe the reasons the first humans (homo sapiens) migrated out of Africa.
- ✓ Discuss the contributions to civilization made by the first humans in Africa.
- ✓ Chart the path of human migration out of Africa and discuss its impact on human variation (i.e. skin/eye color, height, hair texture, etc.).

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: UNIT 1, CLASS 2

Read/View the following:

- ✓ **Documentary:** Journey of Man - The Story of the Human Species Part 2 (start at 57:10 min)
- ✓ Natural History Museum: "First genetic code of Neanderthal reveals interbreeding" (10 min)

STUDY QUESTIONS

From Documentary: Journey of Man - The Story of the Human Species Part 2

1. Who were the Cro Magnon people?
2. How did changes in climate affect human beings after they left the hot/tropical climate of Africa and moved to colder climates?
3. In your opinion, does climate affect personality development? Does climate affect one's mood?
4. In your opinion, does scarcity of resources affect human development and behavior? If yes, how so?
5. In your opinion, does abundance of resources affect human development and behavior? If yes, how so?

From "First genetic code of Neanderthal reveals interbreeding"

6. What "race(s)" or group of people are said to have interbred with Neanderthals?
7. What are some of the negative traits associated with Neanderthal DNA?
8. How does the documentary and new articles on Neanderthals contrast from what you previously taught about Neanderthals?