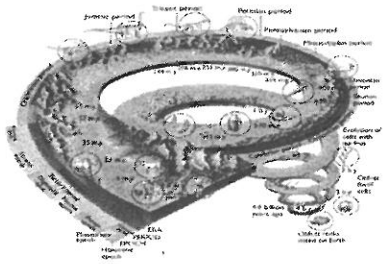
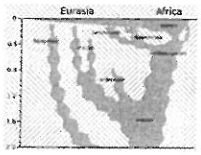
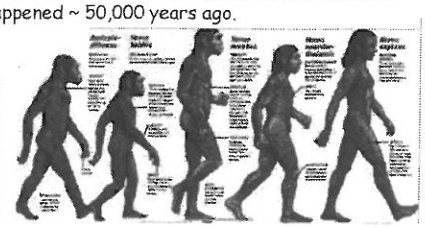
Notes: Human Population

- As humans we are recent arrivals to the world:
  - Earth 4.6 billion years old
  - Human beings distant ancestors (*Homo habilis*), 2.8 mill years old

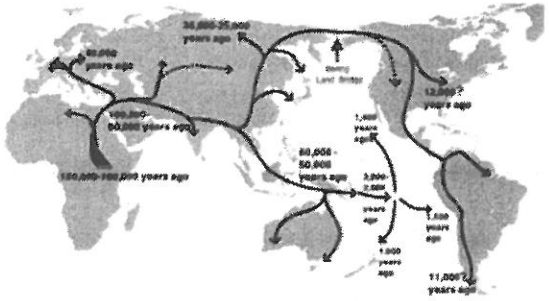


- Development of Modern Humans:
  - *Homo erectus* were the first to use fire and complex tools as well as the first hominid line to leave Africa spreading throughout Africa, Asia and Eruope ~1.5 mya
  - Archaic Homo sapiens developed 400, 000 years ago
  - Modern humans evolved further and emerged 200,000 years ago
  - The development of symbolic culture, language and specialized "technology" happened ~ 50,000 years ago.



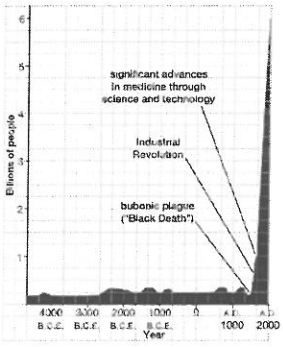


Map of Human Migration out of Africa



Let's Fast forward 50,000 more years to 4000 BCE) and a time when world population growth began to be tracked and recorded.....

Human Population Growth



- Beginning of growth was due to agricultural advances in ~7000 BCE.
- Significant decline during "Black Death" (1400's) when 40% of Europe's population died.
- Industrial Revolution made easier living so up in population.
- Advances in medicine makes for further easier and longer lives.

- Currently the population is just over 7.3 billion, and is continually growing!

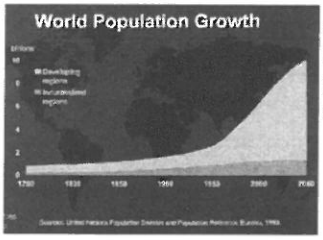
Growing Human Population

- It took the human population 2 million years to reach the 1 billion mark; however in the last 200 years we have added 5 billion to our population. We are growing at explosion rates.
- **Does the human population have limiting factors applied to their ecosystems?**
- **Why is it difficult to apply the carrying capacity concept to the human population?**

World Population Density By Country (number of people/Km²)

- **Where are the most and least dense populations found? Why do you think this is?**

How do these two graphs relate?



- How do you think life differs among the countries with high growth rates and low growth rates?
- What are some reasons why this might be?