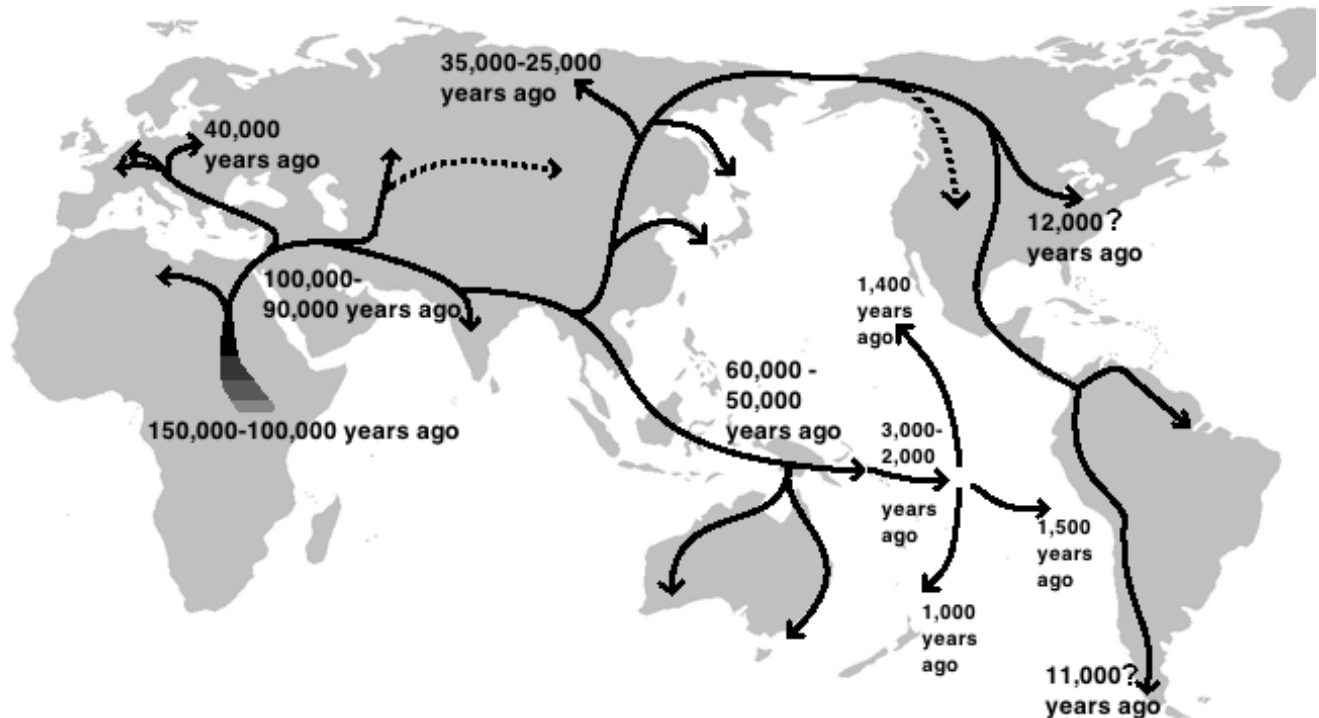


16. Out of Africa.



The **entire** world is covered with people, more than 6 **Billion** of us. People live everywhere that the Earth can support human life, and even in some places where it doesn't want to (like Antarctica!). But we didn't all just appear on all of the continents; we travelled from somewhere. People travelled to Europe, to Asia, to the Americas, to Australia, New Zealand, and all the Islands in between that we live on today. Our ancestors came from somewhere else, and one well **respected theory** is that our human ancestors originally came from Africa.



Palaeoanthropology is the study of **ancient** humans. These scientists use **fossil** records and **DNA** study to work out where our **ancestors** came from. Their findings support the idea that modern people evolved from **archaic** *Homo sapiens* between 150 000 and 200 000 years ago in the heart of Africa. Our ancestors started to **migrate** from Africa through the Middle East and Asia, replacing earlier human populations such as **Neanderthals** and **Homo erectus** shortly after that.

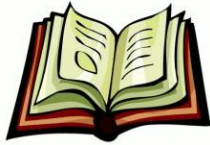


Activities



Comprehension Questions

Before you start, define the terms in **bold**. (Because the Out of Africa Theory is a scientific theory, use the definition of theory that scientists use.)



1. Where do people live on Earth?
2. What is one respected theory about where people came from?
3. Describe the travels of people since 150 000 years ago.
4. What is Palaeoanthropology?
5. What evidence for the "Out of Africa" theory exists?
6. Who did our ancestors replace?

Thinking Questions

1. Why do you think people have travelled everywhere inhabitable on the planet?
2. What difficulties do you think people have faced on their travels around the world?

