

Human melting pot in an ice-age world

Research suggests that as modern humans migrated out of Africa, ice-age conditions forced them to shelter in "refugia" occupied by smaller groups of distant cousins. Subsequent evolutionary change may have led to one global species of human – and the demise of its Neanderthal and Denisovan ancestors



Homo heidelbergensis

700,000 - 200,000 years ago

First species of *Homo* genus to bury their dead. Presumed common ancestor of *Homo sapiens*, and other human species – *H. neanderthalensis*, *H. floresiensis* and Denisovans



H. neanderthalensis

200,000 - 28,000 years ago



H. sapiens

200,000 years ago - present



Denisovans

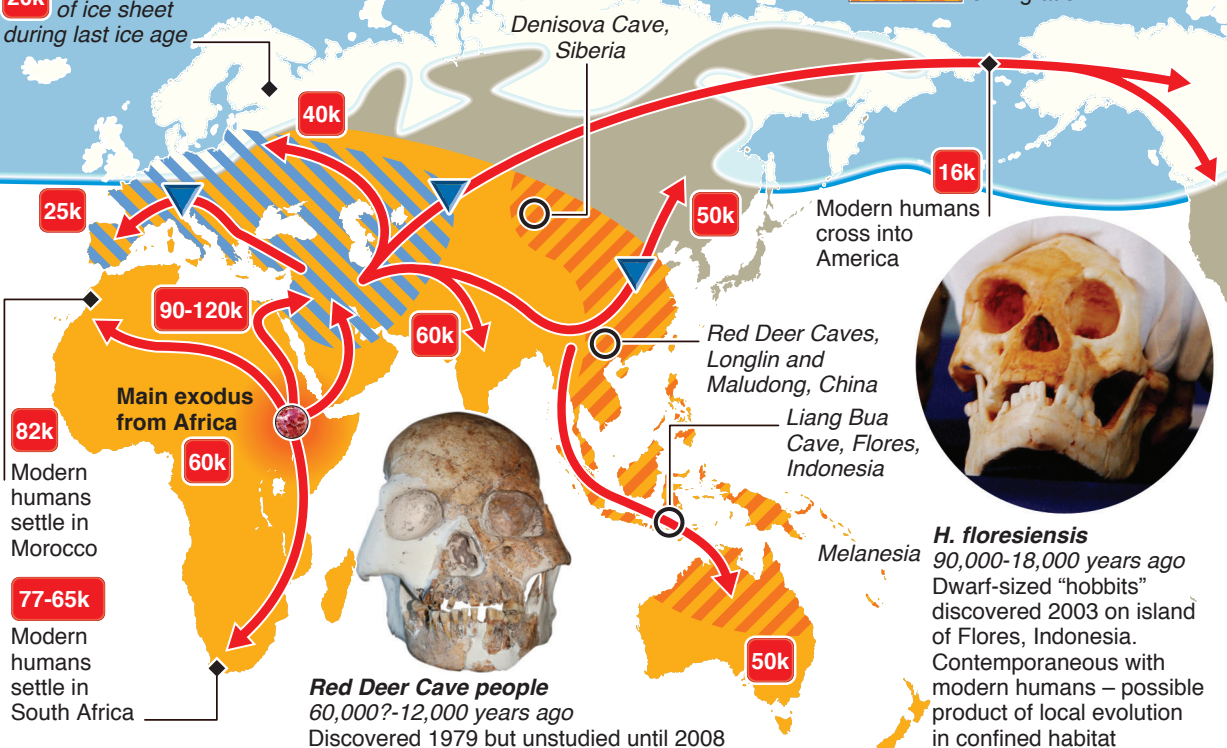
50,000 - 30,000 years ago

Discovered in 2008. Genome sequence found in tooth and finger bone suggests hominin is related to common ancestors of Melanesians and Aboriginal Australians



Possible glacial refugia 10k 10,000 years ago

20k Peak extent of ice sheet during last ice age



H. floresiensis

90,000-18,000 years ago
Dwarf-sized "hobbits" discovered 2003 on island of Flores, Indonesia. Contemporaneous with modern humans – possible product of local evolution in confined habitat

