

erectus walks among us

erectus walks among us has become a fascinating phrase for those intrigued by human evolution, anthropology, and the mysteries of our ancient past. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the origins, interpretations, and controversies surrounding the idea that Homo erectus, an extinct human ancestor, might have left a lasting legacy or even descendants among modern populations. We will delve into the scientific evidence, historical context, and the impact of these discussions on evolutionary theory. The article will also examine how the phrase "erectus walks among us" has permeated popular culture, the ongoing debates in academic circles, and the implications for our understanding of human diversity. Whether you are a student, researcher, or simply curious about human evolution, this guide offers a thorough and SEO-optimized resource, ensuring clarity and depth on this captivating topic.

- Origins of the Phrase "Erectus Walks Among Us"
- The Scientific Background of Homo erectus
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Origins of the Phrase "Erectus Walks Among Us"

The phrase "erectus walks among us" has its roots in the study of human evolution, particularly referencing Homo erectus, one of our most significant prehistoric ancestors. First coined in academic and popular science circles, the phrase has been used both literally and metaphorically. Some use it to suggest that physical or behavioral traits of Homo erectus persist among modern humans, while others employ it to discuss the evolutionary continuum. The phrase gained further notoriety through various books, documentaries, and online discussions, often sparking debates about human ancestry and diversity. Understanding its origins helps clarify why the topic remains relevant in evolutionary science and public discourse. Ultimately, the phrase serves as a compelling entry point into the deeper investigation of our shared evolutionary history.

The Scientific Background of Homo erectus

Discovery and Fossil Record

Homo erectus, meaning "upright man," lived approximately 1.9 million to 110,000 years ago, making it one of the longest-surviving hominid species. Fossils have been discovered across Africa, Asia, and parts of Europe, indicating a widespread presence. The first fossils were uncovered in Java, Indonesia, and later in China at Zhoukoudian, famously known as "Peking Man." These discoveries revolutionized our understanding of early human migration and adaptation.

Physical Characteristics of Homo erectus

Homo erectus displayed a unique blend of primitive and advanced features. They had a robust skeletal structure, prominent brow ridges, and a larger cranial capacity compared to earlier hominids. These characteristics suggest adaptations for endurance walking and running, as well as increased cognitive abilities. The species also exhibited reduced sexual dimorphism, indicating a shift in social structure and reproductive strategies.

Cultural and Technological Achievements

Homo erectus is credited with significant technological advancements. They were among the first hominids to use and refine stone tools, notably the Acheulean hand axe. Evidence suggests they controlled fire, constructed simple shelters, and possibly engaged in cooperative hunting. These achievements mark a pivotal step in the evolution of human intelligence and social organization.

- Widespread fossil discoveries across continents
- Combination of primitive and advanced anatomical traits
- First use of complex stone tools
- Mastery of fire and basic shelter construction
- Early signs of social cooperation

Interpretations and Misconceptions

The Literal vs. Metaphorical View

The phrase "erectus walks among us" can be interpreted in both literal and metaphorical ways. Literally, it suggests the continued existence of Homo erectus or direct descendants within modern human populations. However, the overwhelming consensus among scientists is that Homo erectus is extinct, with no surviving pure descendants. Metaphorically, the phrase highlights the genetic and evolutionary legacy carried by all humans, emphasizing the continuum between ancient and modern populations.

Misconceptions About Human Ancestry

A common misconception is the belief that modern humans evolved directly from Homo erectus without any branching or parallel evolution. In reality, human evolution is a complex web involving multiple hominid species, hybridization, and migration events. The phrase has sometimes been misused to promote pseudoscientific ideas or to justify social and cultural biases, which is not supported by reputable scientific evidence.

Key Evidence and Research Findings

Genetic Studies and DNA Evidence

Advancements in genetics have provided remarkable insights into the relationship between Homo erectus and modern humans. While ancient DNA extraction from Homo erectus fossils remains challenging due to degradation, comparative genomics suggests that modern humans share a common ancestor with Homo erectus rather than being direct descendants. Genetic evidence reveals interbreeding events with other archaic humans, such as Neanderthals and Denisovans, but not with Homo erectus directly.

Fossil Morphology Comparisons

Comparative studies of fossil skulls, teeth, and postcranial remains highlight both similarities and differences between Homo erectus and Homo sapiens. Key distinctions include cranial shape, jaw structure, and limb proportions. These findings support the view that while Homo erectus contributed to the evolutionary mosaic, it is not present as a distinct lineage among modern populations.

Cultural and Archaeological Evidence

Archaeological sites associated with Homo erectus reveal a culture that was both innovative and adaptable. Tool-making, evidence of fire use, and possible symbolic behavior point to a sophisticated hominid. However, there is no direct cultural or archaeological link between Homo erectus and any

specific modern human population beyond shared ancestral traits.

Controversies and Debates in Anthropology

Competing Theories of Human Evolution

Several theories have emerged to explain the transition from Homo erectus to modern Homo sapiens. The "Out of Africa" model posits that modern humans evolved in Africa and replaced existing hominid populations, including Homo erectus, elsewhere. Alternatively, the "Multiregional" hypothesis suggests continuous gene flow and regional evolution, with Homo erectus populations contributing to modern diversity. Most evidence favors the Out of Africa theory while acknowledging some regional gene flow.

Debates on Modern Human Variation

Claims that "erectus walks among us" sometimes emerge in discussions about modern human variation. While all humans share a common evolutionary heritage, there is no credible scientific basis for linking current populations directly to Homo erectus. These debates often intersect with sensitive topics including race, identity, and the misuse of science in social discourse.

Influence on Popular Culture and Media

Books, Documentaries, and Online Discussions

The intriguing notion that "erectus walks among us" has inspired various books, documentaries, and online debates. Popular science authors have explored the evolutionary journey of Homo erectus, often using the phrase to spark curiosity or controversy. Media portrayals sometimes blur scientific accuracy with sensationalism, contributing to persistent myths and misunderstandings.

Impact on Public Understanding of Evolution

Media coverage of human evolution shapes public perceptions and knowledge. While some documentaries and articles provide accurate and educational content, others promote misconceptions or speculative claims. The phrase "erectus walks among us" exemplifies how scientific concepts can be both enlightening and misinterpreted in public discourse.

Implications for Human Evolutionary Theory

Understanding Human Diversity

The study of *Homo erectus* and its legacy enriches our understanding of human diversity. By investigating traits, behaviors, and migrations of ancient populations, scientists can trace the origins and adaptations that shaped modern humans. While *erectus* is not present as a living species, its evolutionary contributions are embedded in our shared ancestry.

Future Research and Discoveries

Ongoing research into ancient DNA, fossil discoveries, and advanced analytical techniques promises to further illuminate the role of *Homo erectus* in human evolution. As technology progresses, new findings may refine our understanding of how ancient species, including *erectus*, contributed to the broader human story.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What does "erectus walks among us" mean?

A: The phrase refers to the idea that *Homo erectus*, an extinct human ancestor, has left a lasting legacy or influence among modern humans, whether through genetic, physical, or behavioral traits.

Q: Is there any evidence that *Homo erectus* is still alive today?

A: There is no credible scientific evidence that *Homo erectus* survives today. The species is considered extinct, with the last known populations disappearing over 100,000 years ago.

Q: How are *Homo erectus* and modern humans related?

A: *Homo erectus* and modern humans share a common ancestor. While not direct ancestors of *Homo sapiens*, *Homo erectus* played a significant role in the evolutionary tree leading to modern humans.

Q: What are the main differences between *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens*?

A: Key differences include cranial capacity, skull shape, brow ridges, jaw structure, and limb proportions. *Homo sapiens* have larger brains and more gracile features compared to *Homo erectus*.

Q: Did Homo erectus interbreed with modern humans?

A: Current genetic evidence does not support significant interbreeding between Homo erectus and modern humans, unlike the documented gene flow between Homo sapiens, Neanderthals, and Denisovans.

Q: Why is the phrase "erectus walks among us" controversial?

A: The phrase is controversial because it can be misinterpreted to imply that certain modern populations are more closely related to Homo erectus, which is not supported by science and can lead to social or racial misconceptions.

Q: What contributions did Homo erectus make to human evolution?

A: Homo erectus contributed advanced tool-making, the use of fire, and social cooperation, marking crucial steps in the development of human culture and cognition.

Q: Where have Homo erectus fossils been found?

A: Fossils have been discovered in Africa, Asia (notably Indonesia and China), and parts of Europe, indicating a widespread distribution during their existence.

Q: How do scientists study the legacy of Homo erectus?

A: Scientists use fossil morphology, archaeological evidence, and comparative genomics to study the evolutionary impact and legacy of Homo erectus.

Q: Will future research change our understanding of Homo erectus?

A: As technology and analytical methods advance, future research may provide new insights into the role of Homo erectus in human evolution, potentially uncovering new evidence about their lives and legacy.

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Erectus Walks Among Us: Unraveling the Legacy of Homo erectus

Introduction:

The phrase "Erectus walks among us" might sound like the tagline for a science fiction thriller, but the reality is far more intriguing and complex. While Homo erectus itself is extinct, its indelible mark on the human genome and its influence on our evolutionary trajectory remain a captivating subject of scientific inquiry. This post delves into the surprising ways the legacy of Homo erectus continues to shape our world, exploring its impact on human evolution, modern genetics, and our understanding of what it truly means to be human. We'll examine the latest scientific evidence and unravel the fascinating mysteries surrounding this pivotal hominin species.

H2: The Enduring Legacy of Homo erectus

Homo erectus, a species that roamed the Earth for over 1.5 million years, represents a crucial stage in human evolution. Its characteristics, such as increased brain size, bipedalism, and the use of sophisticated tools, paved the way for later hominins, ultimately leading to Homo sapiens. But its influence wasn't merely a linear progression; Homo erectus likely interacted and even interbred with other hominin species, contributing to the complex genetic mosaic we see in modern humans. This intermingling, particularly in regions of Africa and Asia, has left an enduring legacy in our DNA, making the claim "Erectus walks among us" more than just a metaphorical statement.

H3: Genetic Echoes in Modern Humans

Recent advancements in ancient DNA analysis have revolutionized our understanding of archaic hominin interactions. Studies have revealed evidence of gene flow between Homo erectus and other hominin species, including Neanderthals and Denisovans. While pinpointing the precise contribution of Homo erectus genetic material to modern human populations remains a challenge, the possibility of shared ancestry adds a layer of complexity to the narrative of human evolution. Tracing these genetic echoes allows us to better understand the intricate web of relationships that shaped the human family tree.

H4: The Impact of Homo erectus Tool Use

Beyond genetics, Homo erectus left an enduring legacy through its technological advancements. The development of Acheulean handaxes, characterized by their sophisticated design and manufacturing process, signifies a significant leap in cognitive abilities. This mastery of toolmaking facilitated improved hunting, food processing, and resource exploitation, providing a competitive advantage and contributing to the success and longevity of the species. This technological prowess fundamentally altered the landscape of early human societies and laid the groundwork for future technological innovations.

H2: Debunking Myths and Addressing Misconceptions

The image of Homo erectus often portrayed in popular culture is often simplistic and outdated. It's crucial to dispel some common misconceptions. Homo erectus wasn't a single, monolithic species;

rather, it exhibited significant variation across different geographical locations and time periods. The term itself encompasses a range of subspecies and potential related species, highlighting the complexity of the evolutionary process. Understanding these nuances is essential for accurately interpreting the fossil record and drawing reliable conclusions about the species' characteristics and behavior.

H3: The Ongoing Search for Answers

Despite decades of research, many questions surrounding *Homo erectus* remain unanswered. The precise reasons for its eventual extinction are still debated. Was it outcompeted by other hominins? Did climate change play a significant role? Or was it a combination of factors? Ongoing research, including new fossil discoveries and advanced analytical techniques, continues to refine our understanding of this pivotal species. The more we learn, the clearer it becomes that the legacy of *Homo erectus* is far richer and more complex than previously imagined.

H2: Erectus's Influence on Our Understanding of Humanity

The study of *Homo erectus* is not merely an academic exercise; it significantly impacts our understanding of what it means to be human. By exploring the evolutionary path of this ancient species, we gain invaluable insights into the development of human cognition, behavior, and technology. Its legacy reminds us of the continuous process of adaptation, innovation, and evolution that has shaped our species. By understanding *Homo erectus*, we deepen our comprehension of our own origins and our place in the broader context of life on Earth.

Conclusion:

The statement "Erectus walks among us" isn't just a provocative title; it's a reflection of the enduring impact *Homo erectus* has had on our species. Through its genetic legacy, technological innovations, and contribution to our understanding of human evolution, *Homo erectus* continues to hold a significant place in our story. As scientific research continues to unveil new discoveries, our understanding of this remarkable hominin will undoubtedly evolve, further enriching our appreciation for the complex tapestry of human history.

FAQs:

1. What is the main difference between *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens*? While both are bipedal and possessed relatively large brains, *Homo sapiens* exhibits a significantly larger brain size, more advanced cognitive abilities, and a more refined toolmaking technology compared to *Homo erectus*.
2. Did *Homo erectus* use fire? Evidence suggests that *Homo erectus* likely controlled fire, although the precise timing and extent of its use are still being debated.
3. Where were the majority of *Homo erectus* fossils discovered? Significant *Homo erectus* fossils have been found across Africa, Asia, and Europe, suggesting a wide geographical distribution for the species.
4. How long ago did *Homo erectus* live? *Homo erectus* existed for over 1.5 million years, ranging

from approximately 1.9 million years ago to as recently as 117,000 years ago.

5. What is the significance of the Acheulean handaxe? The Acheulean handaxe represents a significant leap in toolmaking technology, demonstrating *Homo erectus*'s advanced cognitive capabilities and planning skills. Its consistent form across vast geographical areas suggests cultural transmission of knowledge.

erectus walks among us: Erectus Walks Amongst Us Richard D. Fuerle, 2008-03

erectus walks among us: Thinking Theologically about Mass Incarceration Antonios Kireopoulos, Mitzi J. Budde, Matthew D. Lundberg, 2017 This book is the fruit of a multi-year dialogue among Christian churches in the United States, addressing—from theological perspectives—mass incarceration as an issue in need of radical reform.

erectus walks among us: First Steps Jeremy DeSilva, 2021-04-06 A Science News Best Science Book of the Year: “A brilliant, fun, and scientifically deep stroll through history, anatomy, and evolution.” —Agustín Fuentes, PhD, author of *The Creative Spark: How Imagination Made Humans Exceptional* Winner of the W.W. Howells Book Prize from the American Anthropological Association Blending history, science, and culture, this highly engaging evolutionary story explores how walking on two legs allowed humans to become the planet’s dominant species. Humans are the only mammals to walk on two rather than four legs—a locomotion known as bipedalism. We strive to be upstanding citizens, honor those who stand tall and proud, and take a stand against injustices. We follow in each other’s footsteps and celebrate a child’s beginning to walk. But why, and how, exactly, did we take our first steps? And at what cost? Bipedalism has its drawbacks: giving birth is more difficult and dangerous; our running speed is much slower than other animals; and we suffer a variety of ailments, from hernias to sinus problems. In *First Steps*, paleoanthropologist Jeremy DeSilva explores how unusual and extraordinary this seemingly ordinary ability is. A seven-million-year journey to the very origins of the human lineage, this book shows how upright walking was a gateway to many of the other attributes that make us human—from our technological abilities to our thirst for exploration and our use of language—and may have laid the foundation for our species’ traits of compassion, empathy, and altruism. Moving from developmental psychology labs to ancient fossil sites throughout Africa and Eurasia, DeSilva brings to life our adventure walking on two legs. Includes photographs “A book that strides confidently across this complex terrain, laying out what we know about how walking works, who started doing it, and when.” —The New York Times Book Review “DeSilva makes a solid scientific case with an expert history of human and ape evolution.” —Kirkus Reviews “A brisk jaunt through the history of bipedalism . . . will leave readers both informed and uplifted.” —Publishers Weekly “Breezy popular science at its best.” —Science News

erectus walks among us: The Sediments of Time Meave Leakey, Samira Leakey, 2020 Meave Leakey's thrilling, high-stakes memoir--written with her daughter Samira--encapsulates her distinguished life and career on the front lines of the hunt for our human origins, a quest made all the more notable by her stature as a woman in a highly competitive, male-dominated field.

erectus walks among us: *The Symbolic Species: The Co-evolution of Language and the Brain* Terrence W. Deacon, 1998-04-17 A work of enormous breadth, likely to pleasantly surprise both general readers and experts.—New York Times Book Review This revolutionary book provides fresh answers to long-standing questions of human origins and consciousness. Drawing on his breakthrough research in comparative neuroscience, Terrence Deacon offers a wealth of insights into the significance of symbolic thinking: from the co-evolutionary exchange between language and brains over two million years of hominid evolution to the ethical repercussions that followed man's newfound access to other people's thoughts and emotions. Informing these insights is a new understanding of how Darwinian processes underlie the brain's development and function as well as its evolution. In contrast to much contemporary neuroscience that treats the brain as no more or less

than a computer, Deacon provides a new clarity of vision into the mechanism of mind. It injects a renewed sense of adventure into the experience of being human.

erectus walks among us: A Different Flesh Harry Turtledove, 2015-06-09 This novel by the New York Times–bestselling “master of alternate history” explores an America reshaped by a twist in prehistoric evolution (Publishers Weekly). What if mankind’s “missing link,” the apelike *Homo erectus*, had survived to dominate a North American continent where woolly mammoths and saber-toothed tigers still prowled, while the more advanced *Homo sapiens* built their civilizations elsewhere? Now imagine that the Europeans arriving in the New World had chanced on these primitive creatures and seized the opportunity to establish a hierarchy in which the sapiens were masters and the “sims” were their slaves. This is the premise that drives the incomparable Harry Turtledove’s *A Different Flesh*. The acclaimed Hugo Award winner creates an alternate America that spans three hundred years of invented history. From the Jamestown colonists’ desperate hunt for a human infant kidnapped by a local sim tribe, to a late-eighteenth-century contest between a newfangled steam-engine train and the popular hairy-elephant-pulled model, to the sim-rights activists’ daring 1988 rescue of an unfortunate biped named Matt who’s being used for animal experimentation, Turtledove turns our world inside out in a remarkable science fiction masterwork that explores what it truly means to be human.

erectus walks among us: Evolution Donald R. Prothero, 2017-08-22 Donald R. Prothero’s *Evolution* is an entertaining and rigorous history of the transitional forms and series found in the fossil record. Its engaging narrative of scientific discovery and well-grounded analysis has led to the book’s widespread adoption in courses that teach the nature and value of fossil evidence for evolution. *Evolution* tackles systematics and cladistics, rock dating, neo-Darwinism, and macroevolution. It includes extensive coverage of the primordial soup, invertebrate transitions, the development of the backbone, the reign of the dinosaurs, and the transformation from early hominid to modern human. The book also details the many alleged “missing links” in the fossil record, including some of the most recent discoveries that flesh out the fossil timeline and the evolutionary process. In this second edition, Prothero describes new transitional fossils from various periods, vividly depicting such bizarre creatures as the *Odontochelys*, or the “turtle on the half shell”; fossil snakes with legs; and the “Frogamander,” a new example of amphibian transition. Prothero’s discussion of intelligent design arguments includes more historical examples and careful examination of the “experiments” and observations that are exploited by creationists seeking to undermine sound science education. With new perspectives, Prothero reframes creationism as a case study in denialism and pseudoscience rather than a field with its own intellectual dynamism. The first edition was hailed as an exemplary exploration of the fossil evidence for evolution, and this second edition will be welcome in the libraries of scholars, teachers, and general readers who stand up for sound science in this post-truth era.

erectus walks among us: Ancient Bones Madelaine Böhme, Rüdiger Braun, Florian Breier, 2020-09-08 Splendid and important... Scientifically rigorous and written with a clarity and candor that create a gripping tale... [Böhme’s] account of the history of Europe’s lost apes is imbued with the sweat, grime, and triumph that is the lot of the fieldworker, and carries great authority. —Tim Flannery, *The New York Review of Books* In this fascinating forensic inquiry into human origins (Kirkus STARRED Review), a renowned paleontologist takes readers behind-the-scenes of one of the most groundbreaking archaeological digs in recent history. Somewhere west of Munich, paleontologist Madelaine Böhme and her colleagues dig for clues to the origins of humankind. What they discover is beyond anything they ever imagined: the twelve-million-year-old bones of *Danuvius guggenmosi* make headlines around the world. This ancient ape defies prevailing theories of human history—his skeletal adaptations suggest a new common ancestor between apes and humans, one that dwelled in Europe, not Africa. Might the great apes that traveled from Africa to Europe before *Danuvius*’s time be the key to understanding our own origins? All this and more is explored in *Ancient Bones*. Using her expertise as a paleoclimatologist and paleontologist, Böhme pieces together an awe-inspiring picture of great apes that crossed land bridges from Africa to Europe

millions of years ago, evolving in response to the challenging conditions they found. She also takes us behind the scenes of her research, introducing us to former theories of human evolution (complete with helpful maps and diagrams), and walks us through musty museum overflow storage where she finds forgotten fossils with yellowed labels, before taking us along to the momentous dig where she and the team unearthed *Danuvius guggenmosi* himself—and the incredible reverberations his discovery caused around the world. Praise for *Ancient Bones*: Readable and thought-provoking. Madelaine Böhme is an iconoclast whose fossil discoveries have challenged long-standing ideas on the origins of the ancestors of apes and humans. —Steve Brusatte, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs* An inherently fascinating, impressively informative, and exceptionally thought-provoking read. —Midwest Book Review An impressive introduction to the burgeoning recalibration of paleoanthropology. —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

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erectus walks among us: The Story of B Daniel Quinn, 2010-01-13 From the author of the critically acclaimed, award-winning bestseller *Ishmael* and its sequel, *My Ishmael*, comes a powerful novel with one of the most profound spiritual testaments of our time “A compelling ‘humantale’ that will unglue, stun, shock, and rearrange everything you’ve learned and assume about Western civilization and our future.”—Paul Hawken, author of *The Ecology of Commerce* Father Jared Osborne has received an extraordinary assignment from his superiors: Investigate an itinerant preacher stirring up deep trouble in central Europe. His followers call him B, but his enemies say he’s something else: the Antichrist. However, the man Osborne tracks across a landscape of bars, cabarets, and seedy meeting halls is no blasphemous monster—though an earlier era would undoubtedly have rushed him to the burning stake. For B claims to be enunciating a gospel written not on any stone or parchment but in our very genes, opening up a spiritual direction for humanity that would have been unimaginable to any of the prophets or saviors of traditional religion. Pressed by his superiors for a judgement, Osborne is driven to penetrate B’s inner circle, where he soon finds himself an anguished collaborator in the dismantling of his own religious foundations. More than a masterful novel of adventure and suspense, *The Story of B* is a rich source of compelling ideas from an author who challenges us to rethink our most cherished beliefs. Explore Daniel Quinn’s spiritual *Ishmael* trilogy: *ISHMAEL* • *MY ISHMAEL* • *THE STORY OF B*

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erectus walks among us: Café Neandertal Beebe Bahrami, 2017-03-21 Award-winning writer Bahrami is a delightful guide in this thoroughly enjoyable look into the research and recovery of a group of Neandertal remains in the French Dordogne region . . . Her wide interests in travel,

memoir, food, wine, and more make this exceedingly engaging title more like a French version of *Under the Tuscan Sun*. —Booklist (starred review) Centered in the Dordogne region of southwestern France, one of Europe's most concentrated regions for Neandertal occupations, *Café Neandertal* features the work of archaeologists doing some of the most comprehensive and global work to date on the research, exploration, and recovery of our ancient ancestors, shedding a surprising light on what it means to be human.

erectus walks among us: A Pocket History of Human Evolution: How We Became Sapiens Silvana Condemi, François Savatier, 2019-11-01 Why aren't we more like other apes? How did we win the evolutionary race? Find out how "wise" *Homo sapiens* really are. Prehistory has never been more exciting: New discoveries are overturning long-held theories left and right. Stone tools in Australia date back 65,000 years—a time when, we once thought, the first *Sapiens* had barely left Africa. DNA sequencing has unearthed a new hominid group—the Denisovans—and confirmed that crossbreeding with them (and Neanderthals) made *Homo sapiens* who we are today. *A Pocket History of Human Evolution* brings us up-to-date on the exploits of all our ancient relatives. Paleoanthropologist Silvana Condemi and science journalist François Savatier consider what accelerated our evolution: Was it tools, our "large" brains, language, empathy, or something else entirely? And why are we the sole survivors among many early bipedal humans? Their conclusions reveal the various ways ancient humans live on today—from gossip as modern "grooming" to our gendered division of labor—and what the future might hold for our strange and unique species.

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erectus walks among us: *Almost Human* Lee Berger, John Hawks, 2017-05-09 This first-person narrative about an archaeological discovery is rewriting the story of human evolution. A story of defiance and determination by a controversial scientist, this is Lee Berger's own take on finding *Homo naledi*, an all-new species on the human family tree and one of the greatest discoveries of the 21st century. In 2013, Berger, a National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence, caught wind of a cache of bones in a hard-to-reach underground cave in South Africa. He put out a call around the world for petite collaborators—men and women small and adventurous enough to be able to squeeze through 8-inch tunnels to reach a sunless cave 40 feet underground. With this team of underground astronauts, Berger made the discovery of a lifetime: hundreds of prehistoric bones, including entire skeletons of at least 15 individuals, all perhaps two million years old. Their features combined those of known prehomínids like Lucy, the famous *Australopithecus*, with those more human than anything ever before seen in prehistoric remains. Berger's team had discovered an all new species, and they called it *Homo naledi*. The cave quickly proved to be the richest prehomínid site ever discovered, full of implications that shake the very foundation of how we define what makes us human. Did this species come before, during, or after the emergence of *Homo sapiens* on our evolutionary tree? How did the cave come to contain nothing but the remains of these individuals? Did they bury their dead? If so, they must have had a level of self-knowledge, including an awareness of death. And yet those are the very characteristics used to define what makes us human. Did an equally advanced species inhabit Earth with us, or before us? Berger does not hesitate to address all these questions. Berger is a charming and controversial figure, and some colleagues question his interpretation of this and other finds. But in these pages, this charismatic and visionary paleontologist counters their

arguments and tells his personal story: a rich and readable narrative about science, exploration, and what it means to be human.

erectus walks among us: The Last Great Walk Wayne Curtis, 2014-09-09 In 1909, Edward Payson Weston walked from New York to San Francisco, covering around 40 miles a day and greeted by wildly cheering audiences in every city. The New York Times called it the first bona-fide walk ... across the American continent, and eagerly chronicled a journey in which Weston was beset by fatigue, mosquitos, vicious headwinds, and brutal heat. He was 70 years old. In *The Last Great Walk*, journalist Wayne Curtis uses the framework of Weston's fascinating and surprising story, and investigates exactly what we lost when we turned away from foot travel, and what we could potentially regain with America's new embrace of pedestrianism. From how our brains and legs evolved to accommodate our ancient traveling needs to the way that American cities have been designed to cater to cars and discourage pedestrians, Curtis guides readers through an engaging, intelligent exploration of how something as simple as the way we get from one place to another continues to shape our health, our environment, and even our national identity. Not walking, he argues, may be one of the most radical things humans have ever done.

erectus walks among us: Motorcycles & Sweetgrass Drew Hayden Taylor, 2021-06-01 A story of magic, family, a mysterious stranger . . . and a band of marauding raccoons. Otter Lake is a sleepy Anishnawbe community where little happens. Until the day a handsome stranger pulls up astride a 1953 Indian Chief motorcycle - and turns Otter Lake completely upside down. Maggie, the Reserve's chief, is swept off her feet, but Virgil, her teenage son, is less than enchanted. Suspicious of the stranger's intentions, he teams up with his uncle Wayne - a master of aboriginal martial arts - to drive the stranger from the Reserve. And it turns out that the raccoons are willing to lend a hand.

erectus walks among us: The Substance of Civilization Stephen L. Sass, 2011-08 Demonstrates the way in which the discovery, application, and adaptation of materials has shaped the course of human history and the routines of our daily existence.

erectus walks among us: 50 Popular Beliefs That People Think Are True Guy P. Harrison, 2012-01-03 "What would it take to create a world in which fantasy is not confused for fact and public policy is based on objective reality? asks Neil deGrasse Tyson, science popularizer and author of *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*. I don't know for sure. But a good place to start would be for everyone on earth to read this book. Maybe you know someone who swears by the reliability of psychics or who is in regular contact with angels. Or perhaps you're trying to find a nice way of dissuading someone from wasting money on a homeopathy cure. Or you met someone at a party who insisted the Holocaust never happened or that no one ever walked on the moon. How do you find a gently persuasive way of steering people away from unfounded beliefs, bogus cures, conspiracy theories, and the like? This down-to-earth, entertaining exploration of commonly held extraordinary claims will help you set the record straight. The author, a veteran journalist, has not only surveyed a vast body of literature, but has also interviewed leading scientists, explored the most haunted house in America, frolicked in the inviting waters of the Bermuda Triangle, and even talked to a contrite Roswell alien. He is not out simply to debunk unfounded beliefs. Wherever possible, he presents alternative scientific explanations, which in most cases are even more fascinating than the wildest speculation. For example, stories about UFOs and alien abductions lack good evidence, but science gives us plenty of reasons to keep exploring outer space for evidence that life exists elsewhere in the vast universe. The proof for Bigfoot or the Loch Ness Monster may be nonexistent, but scientists are regularly discovering new species, some of which are truly stranger than fiction. Stressing the excitement of scientific discovery and the legitimate mysteries and wonder inherent in reality, this book invites readers to share the joys of rational thinking and the skeptical approach to evaluating our extraordinary world.

erectus walks among us: The Story of the Human Body Daniel Lieberman, 2014-07-01 A landmark book of popular science that gives us a lucid and engaging account of how the human body evolved over millions of years—with charts and line drawings throughout. "Fascinating.... A readable introduction to the whole field and great on the making of our physicality."—Nature In this book,

Daniel E. Lieberman illuminates the major transformations that contributed to key adaptations to the body: the rise of bipedalism; the shift to a non-fruit-based diet; the advent of hunting and gathering; and how cultural changes like the Agricultural and Industrial Revolutions have impacted us physically. He shows how the increasing disparity between the jumble of adaptations in our Stone Age bodies and advancements in the modern world is occasioning a paradox: greater longevity but increased chronic disease. And finally—provocatively—he advocates the use of evolutionary information to help nudge, push, and sometimes even compel us to create a more salubrious environment and pursue better lifestyles.

erectus walks among us: True Giants Mark A. Hall, Loren Coleman, 2015-06-01 THE BOOK THAT BREAKS A CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL TABOO! Do giant primates larger than gorillas, taller than Sasquatch and Yetis, still exist in the remotest corners of the globe? Famed cryptozoologists Mark A. Hall and Loren Coleman join forces to share their knowledge of this unexplored and neglected topic in cryptozoology. Bigfoot researchers have long been mystified, even embarrassed, by reports of giant hairy apes larger than Bigfoot, and as a result eyewitness reports of what Hall and Coleman call True Giants have never been fully considered in the broader zoological context. Reviewing the evidence found in traditions and footprints, folklore and sightings, the authors of this groundbreaking volume present for the first time in one place the wide-ranging argument for the possible survival of a giant species of primate that we know lived on Earth for millions of years. MARK A. HALL is the author of *Thunderbirds: America's Living Legends of Giant Birds*. LOREN COLEMAN, author of *Bigfoot! The True Story of Apes in America* and *The Field Guide to Bigfoot and Other Mystery Primates*, Together they have been studying the question of True Giants and their kin for fifty years.

erectus walks among us: The Land Beyond Leon McCarron, 2020-08-06 SHORTLISTED FOR THE ADVENTURE TRAVEL BOOK OF THE YEAR AT THE EDWARD STANFORD TRAVEL WRITING AWARDS. There are many reasons why it might seem unwise to walk, mostly alone, through the Middle East. That, in part, is exactly why Leon McCarron did it. From Jerusalem, McCarron followed a series of wild hiking trails that trace ancient trading and pilgrimage routes and traverse some of the most contested landscapes in the world. In the West Bank, he met families struggling to lead normal lives amidst political turmoil and had a surreal encounter with the world's oldest and smallest religious sect. In Jordan, he visited the ruins of Hellenic citadels and trekked through the legendary Wadi Rum. His journey culminated in the vast deserts of the Sinai, home to Bedouin tribes and haunted by the ghosts of Biblical history. *The Land Beyond* is a journey through time, from the quagmire of current geopolitics to the original ideals of the faithful, through the layers of history, culture and religion that have shaped the Holy Land. But at its heart, it is the story of people, not politics and of the connections that can bridge seemingly insurmountable barriers.

erectus walks among us: Touch in the Helping Professions Martin Rovers, Judith Malette, Manal Guirguis-Younger, 2018-04-10 Touch may well be one of the least understood or talked about subjects in the helping professions. A discussion on the importance and ethics of positive, caring, and appropriate touch in professions such as teaching, nursing and counselling is long overdue. *Touch in the Helping Professions* delivers just that, weaving together scholarly evidence, research and clinical practice from a wide range of perspectives encompassing philosophy, theology, psychology, and anthropology to challenge assumptions about the role of touch in the helping professions. The contributors to the volume focus not only on the overarching roles of gender, age, culture and life experience, but go beyond to encompass canine-assisted therapy, touch deprivation, sacred objects, as well as key ethical considerations. The prevailing lack of dialogue, due to fear of contravening ethical boundaries, has stood in the way of an open and responsible discussion on the use of touch in therapy. *Touch in the Helping Professions* is a welcome and much needed contribution to the field—a window onto a fundamental need. This book is published in English. - Cet ouvrage offre un ensemble de données probantes et de résultats cliniques à l'appui du toucher dans le développement physique et émotionnel. Il est structuré selon trois axes : la théorie sur le toucher; la pratique du toucher dans un contexte de thérapie, et les questions éthiques. Il aborde la question

du rôle du genre, de l'âge, de la culture et de l'expérience de vie, des sujets comme la zoothérapie, la privation sensorielle, des objets sacrés, et des considérations d'ordre éthique. Les approches variées – philosophie, théologie, psychologie, anthropologie – remettent en question les présuppositions, offrent un contexte historico-culturel professionnel, et font appel à des données primaires. Les collaborateurs soutiennent que le toucher sain et non sexuel n'est pas suffisamment enseigné dans le cadre de la formation professionnelle. Cette absence de dialogue – engendrée par la crainte de dépasser des bornes éthiques, fait en sorte qu'une discussion ouverte et responsable sur l'utilisation du toucher dans un cadre thérapeutique ne peut avoir lieu, alors même qu'elle contribuerait aux balises théoriques de notre compréhension de cet enjeu fondamental. Ce livre est publié en anglais.

erectus walks among us: Just Curious About Animals and Nature, Jeeves Erin Barrett, Jack Mingo, 2010-05-11 HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY CAN YOU GET FROM AN ELECTRIC EEL? WHEN CAN MISTLETOE BE THE KISS OF DEATH? HOW MANY SHEEP DOES IT TAKE TO GET ENOUGH WOOL FOR A SUIT? WHAT DID BOOK WORMS EAT BEFORE THERE WERE BOOKS? The mysteries of the natural world are endless, but your trusty manservant, Jeeves, has the answers to hundreds of nature's most fascinating mysteries. Based upon questions received at the popular Ask Jeeves® website, Just Curious About Animals and Nature, Jeeves is a fun and freewheeling safari of discovery that can tame even the most savage intellectual curiosity. Packed with incredible facts on everything from the size of a giraffe's tongue (yow, two feet!) to just how fast a fly can fly (4.5mph) to whether dogs have belly buttons (yes, they do), this is a book certain to both amuse and amaze. With a little help from everybody's butler, you'll unlock the secret behind the firefly's glow, wonder at the language of hippos, and scratch your head when you learn the truth about poison ivy. Certain to help you develop the kind of brainpower that will impress your friends and frighten your enemies, Just Curious About Animals and Nature, Jeeves is perfect for fans of flora and fauna, or for anyone who wants to know the whats, whens, whys, and hows of nature.

erectus walks among us: The Blind Watchmaker Charles Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science Richard Dawkins, Richard Dawkins, 1996-09-17 Patiently and lucidly, this Los Angeles Times Book Award and Royal Society of Literature Heinemann Prize winner identifies the aspects of the theory of evolution that people find hard to believe and removes the barriers to credibility one by one. As readable and vigorous a defense of Darwinism as has been published since 1859.--The Economist.

erectus walks among us: Slave Species of the Gods Michael Tellinger, 2012-09-10 Our origins as a slave species and the Anunnaki legacy in our DNA • Reveals compelling new archaeological and genetic evidence for the engineered origins of the human species, first proposed by Zecharia Sitchin in The 12th Planet • Shows how the Anunnaki created us using pieces of their own DNA, controlling our physical and mental capabilities by inactivating their more advanced DNA • Identifies a recently discovered complex of sophisticated ruins in South Africa as the city of the Anunnaki leader Enki Scholars have long believed that the first civilization on Earth emerged in Sumer some 6,000 years ago. However, as Michael Tellinger reveals, the Sumerians and Egyptians inherited their knowledge from an earlier civilization that lived at the southern tip of Africa and began with the arrival of the Anunnaki more than 200,000 years ago. Sent to Earth in search of life-saving gold, these ancient Anunnaki astronauts from the planet Nibiru created the first humans as a slave race to mine gold--thus beginning our global traditions of gold obsession, slavery, and god as dominating master. Revealing new archaeological and genetic evidence in support of Zecharia Sitchin's revolutionary work with pre-biblical clay tablets, Tellinger shows how the Anunnaki created us using pieces of their own DNA, controlling our physical and mental capabilities by inactivating their more advanced DNA--which explains why less than 3 percent of our DNA is active. He identifies a recently discovered complex of sophisticated ruins in South Africa, complete with thousands of mines, as the city of Anunnaki leader Enki and explains their lost technologies that used the power of sound as a source of energy. Matching key mythologies of the world's religions to the Sumerian clay tablet stories on which they are based, he details the actual events behind these tales of direct

physical interactions with “god,” concluding with the epic flood--a perennial theme of ancient myth--that wiped out the Anunnaki mining operations. Tellingner shows that, as humanity awakens to the truth about our origins, we can overcome our programmed animalistic and slave-like nature, tap in to our dormant Anunnaki DNA, and realize the longevity and intelligence of our creators as well as learn the difference between the gods of myth and the true loving God of our universe.

erectus walks among us: The Races of Man: An Outline of Anthropology and Ethnography Joseph Deniker, 2020-09-28 THE innumerable groups of mankind, massed together or scattered, according to the varying nature of the earth's surface, are far from presenting a homogeneous picture. Every country has its own variety of physical type, language, manners, and customs. Thus, in order to exhibit a systematic view of all the peoples of the earth, it is necessary to observe a certain order in the study of these varieties, and to define carefully what is meant by such and such a descriptive term, having reference either to the physical type or to the social life of men. This we shall do in the subsequent chapters as we proceed to develop this slight sketch of the chief general facts of the physical and psychical life of man, and of the most striking social phenomena of the groups of mankind. But there are some general terms which are of more importance than others, and their meaning should be clearly understood from the first. I refer to expressions like “people,” “nation,” “tribe,” “race,” “species,” in short, all the designations of the different groupings, real or theoretic, of human beings. Having defined them, we shall by so doing define the object of our studies. Since ethnography and anthropology began to exist as sciences, an attempt has been made to determine and establish the great groups amongst which humanity might be divided. A considerable diversity of opinion, however, exists among leading scientific men not only as to the number of these groups, of these “primordial divisions” of the human race, but, above all, as to the very nature of these groups. Their significance, most frequently, is very vaguely indicated. In zoology, when we proceed to classify, we have to do with beings which, in spite of slight individual differences, are easily grouped around a certain number of types, with well-defined characters, called “species.” An animal can always be found which will represent the “type” of its species. In all the great zoological collections there exist these “species-types,” to which individuals may be compared in order to decide if they belong to the supposed species. We have then in zoology a real substratum for the determination of species, those primordial units which are grouped afterwards in genera, families, orders, etc.

erectus walks among us: Human Devolution Michael A. Cremo, 2003 WHERE DID WE COME FROM? Drawing upon a wealth of research into archeology, genetics, reincarnation memories, out-of-body experiences, parapsychology, cross cultural cosmology, and the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, Cremo provides a refreshing p

erectus walks among us: Driving With Plato Robert Rowland Smith, 2011-01-13 If life is meaningless as Sartre suggests, what is the point of being born? What does Freud have to say about losing one's virginity or Nietzsche about having a mid-life crisis? From birth to death (and beyond), the best brains in history have thought long and hard about the meaning behind the landmarks that shape our lives - and now acclaimed popular philosopher Robert Rowland Smith brings their genius together for the first time in this smart, witty and accessible journey through life's ups and downs. Drawing on philosophy, art, literature and psychology, *Driving with Plato* explores the real meaning of the hoops we all have to jump through. You'll hear from Aristotle on starting school, learn from St Paul about falling in love, and get tips from Cicero on becoming wise in your old age. Whether you are learning to drive or about to get married, *Driving with Plato* is certain to enlighten and entertain.

erectus walks among us: Human Footprints: Fossilised Locomotion? Matthew R. Bennett, Sarita A. Morse, 2014-08-20 Human footprints provide some of the most emotive and tangible evidence of our ancestors. They provide evidence of stature, presence, behaviour and in the case of early hominin footprints, evidence with respect to the evolution of human gait and foot anatomy. While human footprint sites are rare in the geological record the number of sites around the World has increased in recent years, along with the analytical tools available for their study. The aim of this book is to provide a definitive review of these recent developments with specific reference to the

increased availability of three-dimensional digital elevation models of human tracks at many key sites. The book is divided into eight chapters. Following an introduction the second chapter reviews modern field methods in human ichnology focusing on the development of new analytical tools. The third chapter then reviews the major footprint sites around the World including details on several unpublished examples. Chapters then follow on the role of geology in the formation and preservation of tracks, on the inferences that can be made from human tracks and the final chapter explores the application of this work to forensic science. Audience: This volume will be of interest to researchers and students across a wide range of disciplines - sedimentology, archaeology, forensics and palaeoanthropology.

erectus walks among us: Paradoxes of Gender Judith Lorber, 1994-01-01 In this pathbreaking book, a well-known feminist and sociologist--who is also the Founding Editor of *Gender & Society*--challenges our most basic assumptions about gender. Judith Lorber views gender as wholly a product of socialization subject to human agency, organization, and interpretation. In her new paradigm, gender is an institution comparable to the economy, the family, and religion in its significance and consequences. Drawing on many schools of feminist scholarship and on research from anthropology, history, sociology, social psychology, sociolinguistics, and cultural studies, Lorber explores different paradoxes of gender: --why we speak of only two opposite sexes when there is such a variety of sexual behaviors and relationships; --why transvestites, transsexuals, and hermaphrodites do not affect the conceptualization of two genders and two sexes in Western societies; --why most of our cultural images of women are the way men see them and not the way women see themselves; --why all women in modern society are expected to have children and be the primary caretaker; --why domestic work is almost always the sole responsibility of wives, even when they earn more than half the family income; --why there are so few women in positions of authority, when women can be found in substantial numbers in many occupations and professions; --why women have not benefited from major social revolutions. Lorber argues that the whole point of the gender system today is to maintain structured gender inequality--to produce a subordinate class (women) that can be exploited as workers, sexual partners, childbearers, and emotional nurturers. Calling into question the inevitability and necessity of gender, she envisions a society structured for equality, where no gender, racial ethnic, or social class group is allowed to monopolize economic, educational, and cultural resources or the positions of power.

erectus walks among us: Plagues Upon the Earth Kyle Harper, 2021-10-12 Panoramic in scope, *Plagues upon the Earth* traces the role of disease in the transition to farming, the spread of cities, the advance of transportation, and the stupendous increase in human population. Harper offers a new interpretation of humanity's path to control over infectious disease one where rising evolutionary threats constantly push back against human progress, and where the devastating effects of modernization contribute to the great divergence between societies. The book reminds us that human health is globally interdependent and inseparable from the well-being of the planet itself.--

erectus walks among us: The Descent of Man, and Selection in Relation to Sex Charles Darwin, 2008-09-02 In the current resurgence of interest in the biological basis of animal behavior and social organization, the ideas and questions pursued by Charles Darwin remain fresh and insightful. This is especially true of *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex*, Darwin's second most important work. This edition is a facsimile reprint of the first printing of the first edition (1871), not previously available in paperback. The work is divided into two parts. Part One marshals behavioral and morphological evidence to argue that humans evolved from other animals. Darwin shows that human mental and emotional capacities, far from making human beings unique, are evidence of an animal origin and evolutionary development. Part Two is an extended discussion of the differences between the sexes of many species and how they arose as a result of selection. Here Darwin lays the foundation for much contemporary research by arguing that many characteristics of animals have evolved not in response to the selective pressures exerted by their physical and biological environment, but rather to confer an advantage in sexual competition. These two themes

are drawn together in two final chapters on the role of sexual selection in humans. In their Introduction, Professors Bonner and May discuss the place of *The Descent* in its own time and relation to current work in biology and other disciplines.

erectus walks among us: Reading Prehistoric Human Tracks Andreas Pastoors, Tilman Lenssen-Erz, 2021 This Open Access book explains that after long periods of prehistoric research in which the importance of the archaeological as well as the natural context of rock art has been constantly underestimated, research has now begun to take this context into focus for documentation, analysis, interpretation and understanding. Human footprints are prominent among the long-time under-researched features of the context in caves with rock art. In order to compensate for this neglect an innovative research program has been established several years ago that focuses on the merging of indigenous knowledge and western archaeological science for the benefit of both sides. The book gathers first the methodological diversity in the analysis of human tracks. Here major representatives of anthropological, statistical and traditional approaches feature the multi-layered methods available for the analysis of human tracks. Second it compiles case studies from around the globe of prehistoric human tracks. For the first time, the most important sites which have been found worldwide are published in a single publication. The third focus of this book is on firsthand experiences of researchers with indigenous tracking experts from around the globe, expounding on how archaeological science can benefit from the ancestral knowledge. This book will be of interest to professional archaeologists, graduate students, ecologists, cultural anthropologists and laypeople, especially those focussing on hunting-gathering and pastoralist communities and who appreciate indigenous knowledge.--

erectus walks among us: From Lucy to Language Donald E. Johanson, Donald C. Johanson, Blake Edgar, 1996 Photographs of significant hominid fossils and artifacts illustrate an assessment of the visual proof of human evolution and the meaning of clues left by the forebears of the human race. 25,000 first printing. Tour.

erectus walks among us: Walking with Cavemen John Lynch, Louise Barrett, 2003 Uses the live-action photography and computer-generated images from the Discovery Channel series of the same name, along with the latest archaeological discoveries, to provide a history of human evolution on Earth.

erectus walks among us: The Rosy Crucifixion: Sexus Henry Miller, 1987 The first book of a trilogy of novels known collectively as *The Rosy Crucifixion*. It is autobiographical and tells the story of Miller's first tempestuous marriage and his relentless sexual exploits in New York. The other books are *Plexus* and *Nexus*.

erectus walks among us: Eat Like a Human Dr. Bill Schindler, 2021-11-16 An archaeologist and chef explains how to follow our ancestors' lead when it comes to dietary choices and cooking techniques for optimum health and vitality. Read this book! (Mark Hyman, MD, author of *Food*) Our relationship with food is filled with confusion and insecurity. Vegan or carnivore? Vegetarian or gluten-free? Keto or Mediterranean? Fasting or Paleo? Every day we hear about a new ingredient that is good or bad, a new diet that promises everything. But the secret to becoming healthier, losing weight, living an energetic life, and healing the planet has nothing to do with counting calories or feeling deprived—the key is re-learning how to eat like a human. This means finding food that is as nutrient-dense as possible, and preparing that food using methods that release those nutrients and make them bioavailable to our bodies, which is exactly what allowed our ancestors to not only live but thrive. In *Eat Like a Human*, archaeologist and chef Dr. Bill Schindler draws on cutting-edge science and a lifetime of research to explain how nutrient density and bioavailability are the cornerstones of a healthy diet. He shows readers how to live like modern “hunter-gatherers” by using the same strategies our ancestors used—as well as techniques still practiced by many cultures around the world—to make food as safe, nutritious, bioavailable, and delicious as possible. With each chapter dedicated to a specific food group, in-depth explanations of different foods and cooking techniques, and concrete takeaways, as well as 75+ recipes, *Eat Like a Human* will permanently change the way you think about food, and help you live a happier, healthier, and more connected

life.

erectus walks among us: Cultural Anthropology: 101 Jack David Eller, 2015-02-11 This concise and accessible introduction establishes the relevance of cultural anthropology for the modern world through an integrated, ethnographically informed approach. The book develops readers' understanding and engagement by addressing key issues such as: What it means to be human The key characteristics of culture as a concept Relocation and dislocation of peoples The conflict between political, social and ethnic boundaries The concept of economic anthropology Cultural Anthropology: 101 includes case studies from both classic and contemporary ethnography, as well as a comprehensive bibliography and index. It is an essential guide for students approaching this fascinating field for the first time.

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