

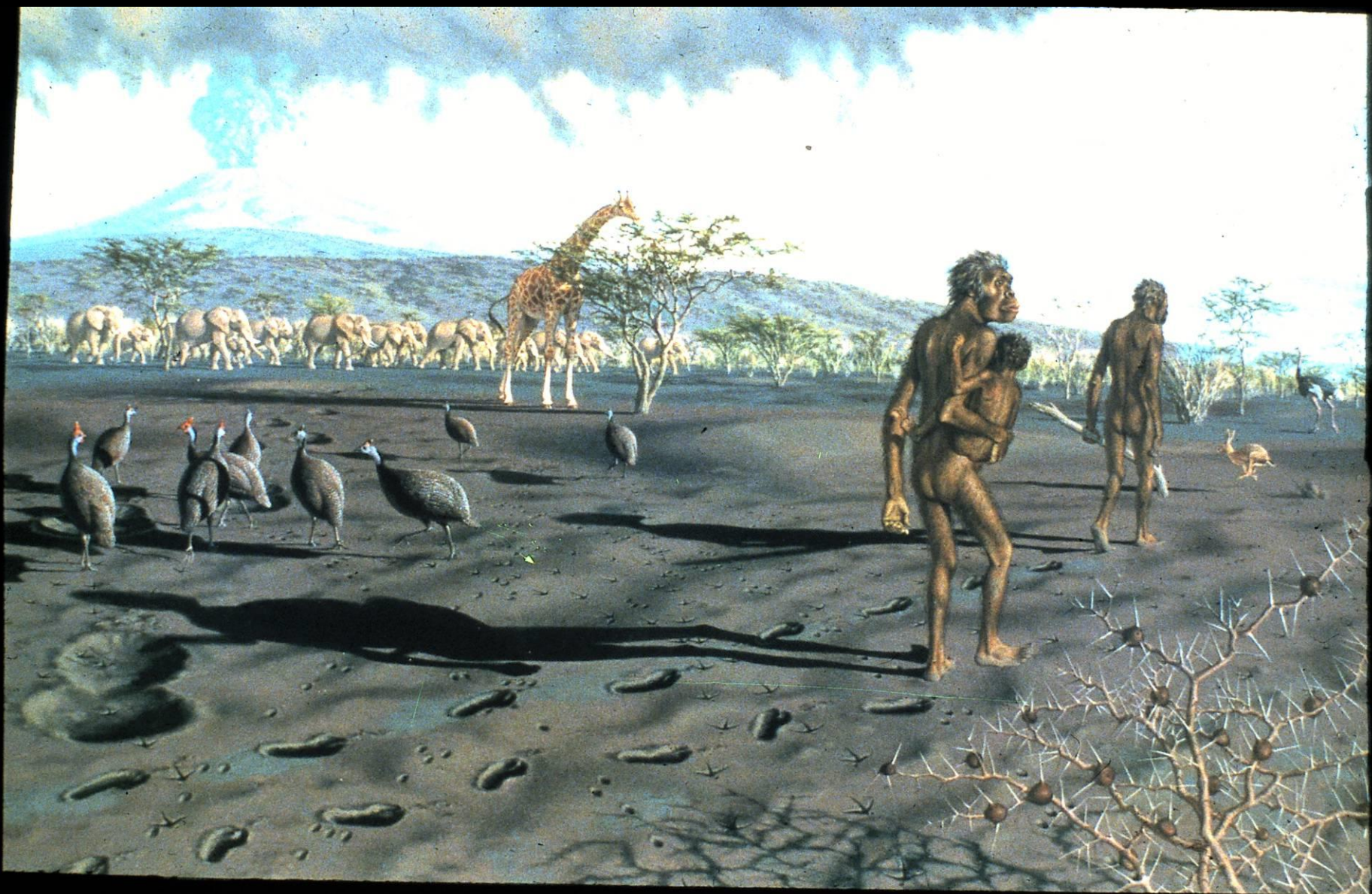
Key Characteristics of Five Early Hominids



Who is this? What type of
hominid?

Why is this hominid find
important?





Australopithicus Afarensis

“Southern Ape from the Afar Region”

Time Period and Location

- 3.9 to 3.0 MILLION years ago!
- Lived Primarily in East Africa

Animals Around at that Time:

Giraffes, Elephants, Ostriches, All Types of Fowl (Birds), Wild Hare (Rabbits)

Australopithecus Afarensis

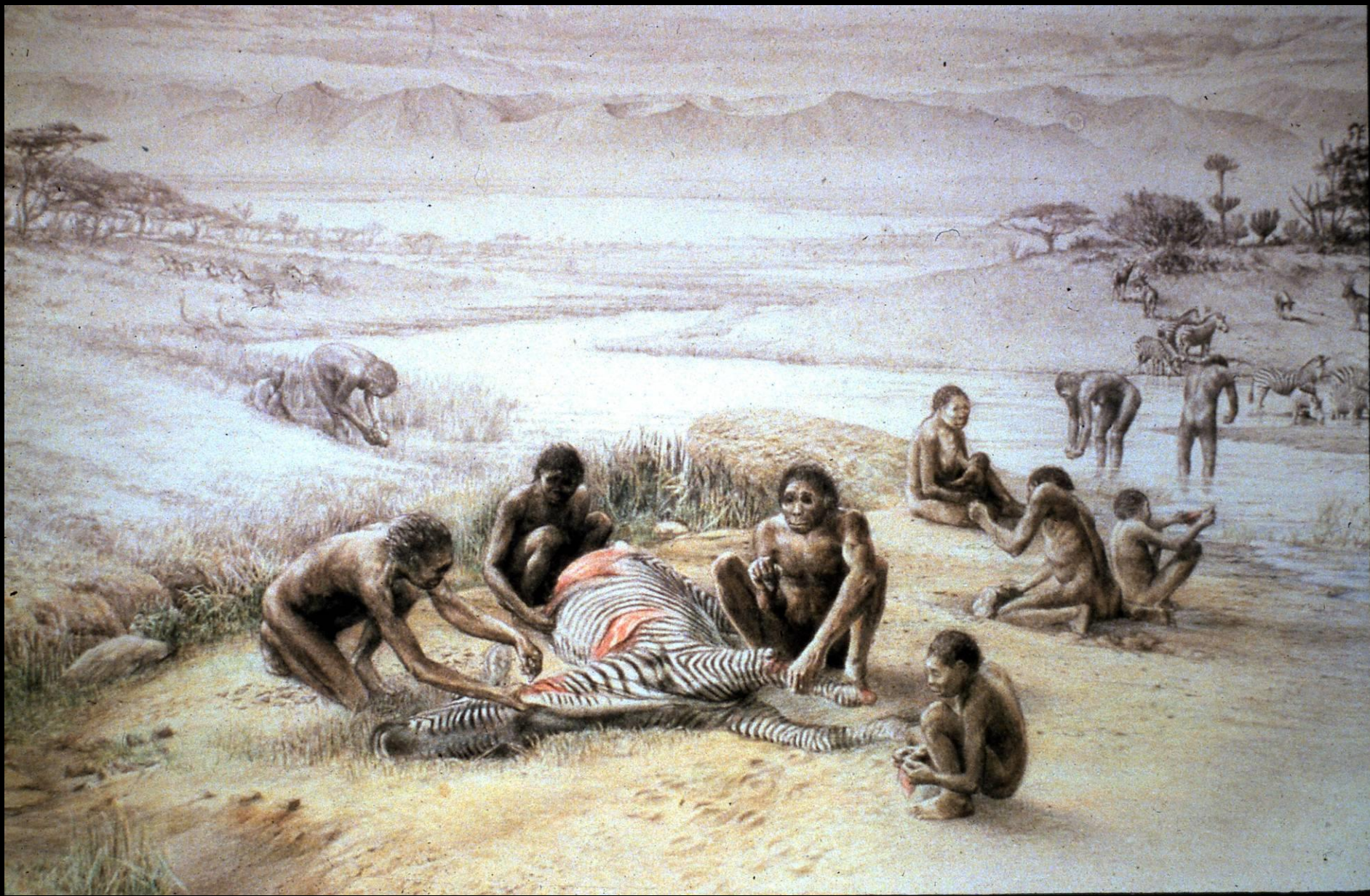
Physical Appearance

- Brain is 1/3 the size of modern human's, but larger than an ape's brain. *“It's not the SIZE of the brain, but HOW you use it!”*
- Jutting jaw, prominent (sticking out) brow, flared cheekbones
- Long arms, human-like legs
- Under 4 Feet Tall

Capabilities and Skills

- Bipedal-Walked on 2 feet
- Maybe lived in small groups
- Possibly used simple tools like digging sticks
- Ate easily chewed foods-insects, eggs, fruit
- Lacked a spoken language





Homo Habilis

“Handy Person”

Time Period and Location

- 1.9 to 1.5 MILLION years ago
- Lived ONLY in Africa (Why? No fire!)

Animals Around at that Time:

Zebras, giraffes, elephants, ostrich, all types of fowl, wild hare

Homo Habilis

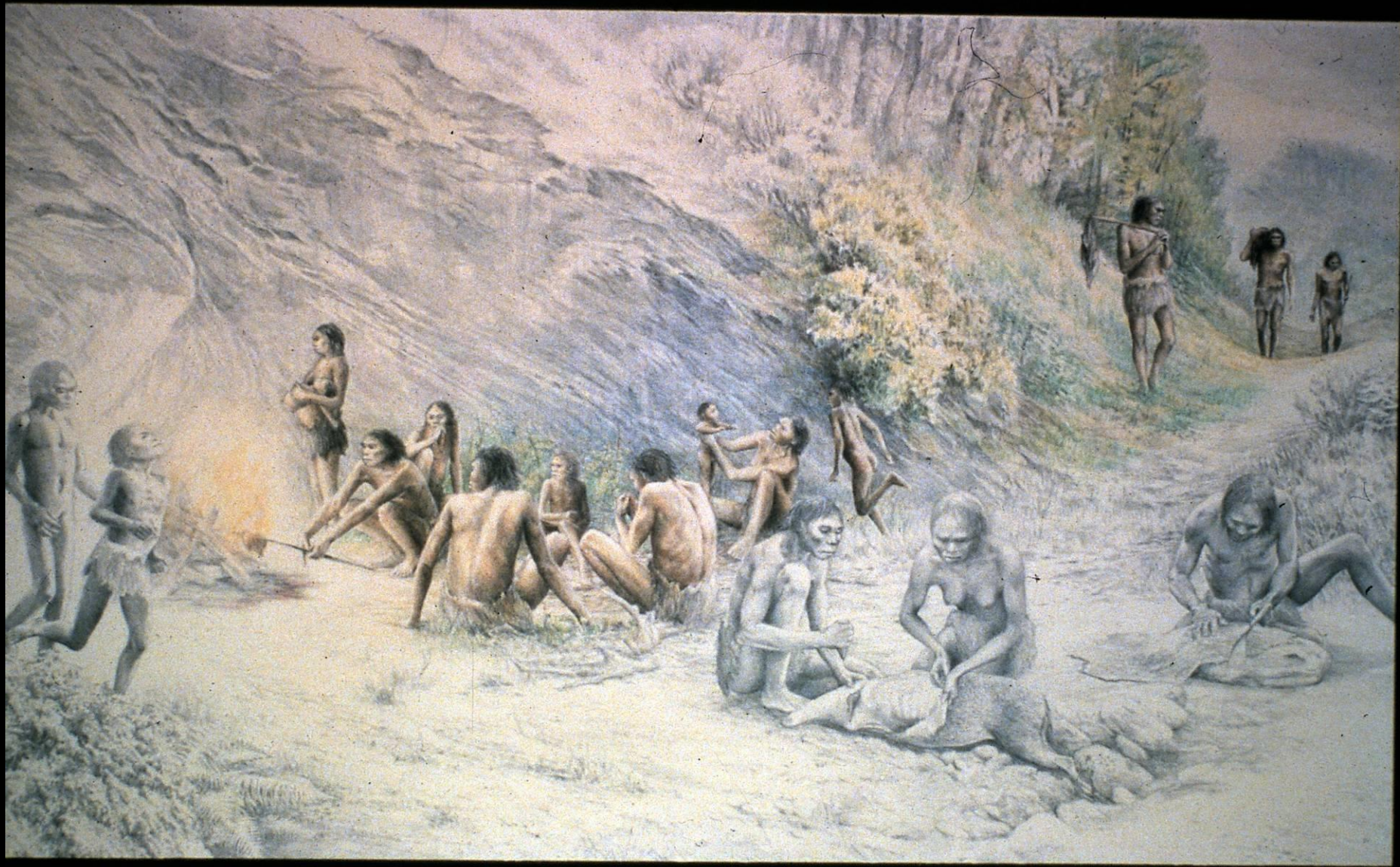
Physical Appearance

- Face similar to *Australopithecus*, but larger brain size and smaller back teeth
 - Long, ape-like arms
- Possible 5 feet tall and weighed around 100 pounds

Capabilities and Skills

- Made tools from bones and stones-used to chop and cut meat, bones, wood, and grass.
- Scavengers for meat
- No evidence of a spoken language
- Lived together with a few people





Homo Erectus

“Human Who Stands Upright”

Time Period and Location

- 1.8 MILLION to 200,000 years ago
- Lived in Africa, Asia, and Europe (Why?
They could tame fire!)

Animals Around at that Time:

Boar, deer, elephants, rhinos, goats, oysters

Homo Erectus

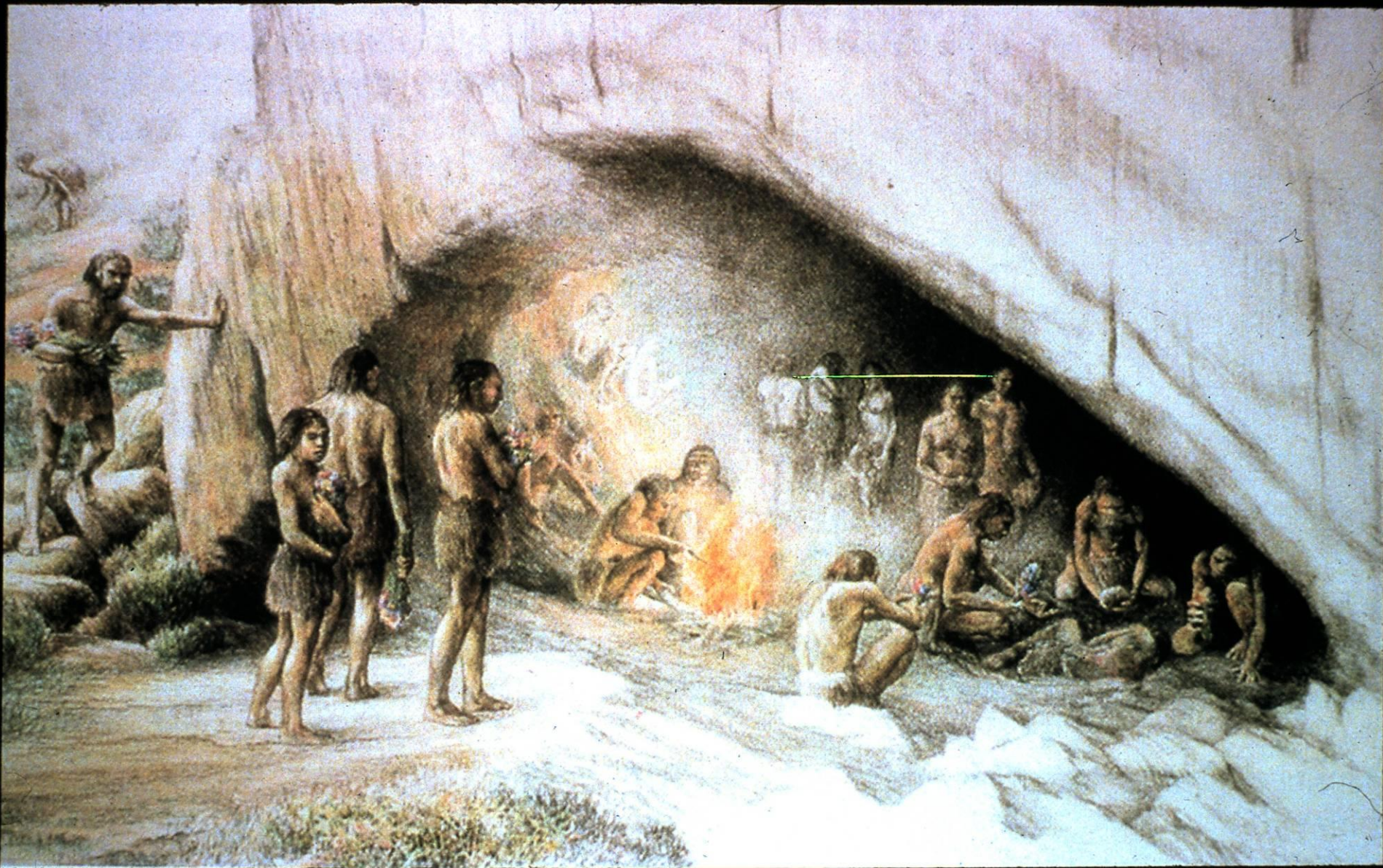
Physical Appearance

- Large Brain
- Smooth, round forehead, single brow ridge, protruding jaw, large back teeth
- Tall, thin, barrel-chested with narrow pelvis
 - Upright stance

Capabilities and Skills

- Made flint axes
- Controlled fire
- Lived in huts made of tree branches
- Variety of food: meat from large animals, oysters, plants
- Possible Sounds/Language





Homo Sapiens Neanderthalensis

“Wise Person from the Neander Valley”

Time Period and Location

- 230,000 to 30,000 years ago
- Lived in Europe, Western Asia, and the Near East

Animals Around at that Time:

Bears, shellfish, small reptiles

Homo Sapiens Neanderthalensis

Physical Appearance

- Brain larger than modern human's brain
(“It's not the SIZE of the brain, it's how you USE it!”)
- Bulge at back of skull, bony brows, jutting face, heavy jaw
 - Stocky and short-limbed bodies
- Thick, heavy bones and powerful muscles

Capabilities and Skills

- Flaked flint into knives, points, blades
- Hunted large animals in bands
- Cared for sick, old, wounded
- Possible Burial Rituals
- Built teepee-like shelters and stored food
- Possessed a simple language





Homo Sapiens Sapiens
“Double-Wise Person” OR
“Modern Human”
Time Period and Location

- 100,000 years ago to PRESENT
- Over time, lived all over the world

Animals Around at that Time:

Horses, Oxen, Bison, etc.

Homo Sapiens Sapiens

Physical Appearance

- Large Brain
- High, rounded skull, small teeth, steep forehead, receded brow ridge, prominent chin
- Slender Bones

Capabilities and Skills

- More than 100 tools for engraving, sculpting, sewing, and hunting.
- Lived in social groups
- Semi-permanent huts of stone, wood, animal hides
- Created art in caves
- Advanced spoken language

