

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter November, 2014

OUT OF AFRICA, THE HUMAN JOURNEY

With the mapping of the human genome completed in 2003, and the testing of thousands of DNA samples from people around the world, there's now mounting physical proof that every person on the face of the earth today, no matter what race, color or creed, is a descendent of one small group of people who migrated from Africa on an incredible journey that began some 60,000 or more years ago.

Just think about it! A small group, perhaps only a single tribe, set out from Africa and eventually replaced all other species of humans and humanoid races living throughout the world at that time.

DNA studies suggest that, apart from a few isolated African tribes such as the Bushmen, no other genetic strain remains or survives to any significant degree but the one that was carried by that group of people all those tens of thousands of years ago. This evidence suggests that, incredibly, we are all Africans - at least at a genetic level.

Africa is where we first evolved and where we have spent the majority of our time on this earth. The earliest fossils recognizable as modern Homo sapiens, i.e. us, appear to go back about 200,000 years in Africa, but the trail left by our ancestors is much younger than that. What could have caused these people to migrate some 60,000 years ago? Some scientists suggest it was climate change.

Around the time of the "great migration" some suggest there was a major climate shift – a sudden cooling of the earth driven by the onset of one of the worst periods of the last Ice Age. Genetic evidence suggests that at that time there was a dramatic reduction in the world's population. In fact, it is likely the earth's human population dropped to fewer than 10,000.



Once the climate started to improve, however, we came back from the brink of near-extinction with a vengeance! It was at about this time that some intrepid explorers started to venture beyond Africa.

This first great foray lead our species across the globe. But if climate change can cause such a dramatic shift in the human experience, what does the present change in climate bode for us?



Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?
.... Try our *lessons through the net!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

For a complete map of our journey, go here:

<https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/human-journey/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: It is always a pleasure to see our students doing something extra towards trying to improve their English. The more you get involved outside of the school – yes, that includes homework! – the faster your English will develop. One excellent way to keep busy at home is to write. Your teachers will gladly correct your written homework and, if it's interesting and, with your approval, we can feature it on page 3 of our newsletter. (Just like Taro's has been for the last two issues.)

Junko Says: Here's a great idea to keep in touch with other Crossroads students, and practice English at the same time. Some students would like to link up through Facebook and so we decided to create an English-fan club. It is going to be a way to share study experiences, keep in touch outside the school and to practice English together. We support this idea 100%, and Crossroads will also link in with you. Please leave your Facebook address with us and we'll pass it on to the "club" members. Let's link up and keep using English every day!



Kenneth Says: Over the first long weekend of November (Culture Day) we returned to Saijo and Higashihiroshima, where the main campus of Hiroshima University is situated. We had a good visit with my colleagues at Hiroshima University, and returned to some favourite rural spots around Fukutomi – Café Sprouts country bakery and Cadore farm, a favourite spot for gelato ice cream and where the kids can feed the farm animals.



Danielle dit: Novembre, c'est le mois de mon anniversaire. En effet, je suis née a Ottawa lors d'une grosse tempête de neige ! Par contre, je trouve le mois de novembre un peu triste. Le temps est froid et maussade, les arbres sont dénudés et souvent il n'y a pas encore de neige pour pratiquer le ski ou le patin. Les Canadiens célèbrent le jour du Souvenir, autrefois appelé jour de l'Armistice, tous les 11 novembre à 11 h. Ce jour rappelle la fin de la Première Guerre mondiale et est une occasion de se souvenir de tous ceux qui ont défendu la nation.



ACROSS

- 2 change place or direction
- 4 the first attempt to venture forward
- 8 not influenced by fear or intimidation
- 9 an organism's complete DNA sequence
- 11 surprising beyond belief
- 12 going up, increasing advancing
- 14 a system of beliefs
- 15 the beginning or early stage
- 16 go ahead despite risk or possible danger

Play A Game!

DOWN

- 1 move from one country and settle in another
- 3 cut off or left behind
- 5 a sign of something (important often bad) to come
- 6 a special group (mainly biological)
- 7 appearing to be or similar to human
- 10 redress or payback
- 13 a path or track



