

# Color

**Abdul Alkalimat**  
**IFA: Intro for all**  
**Community Lecture #1**  
**August 26, 2023**

# **How to participate in the discussion?**

Almost 250 people have registered, and over 100 want to be in the discussion. There are several ways to do so. Out time is limited to 90 minutes, including 45 minutes of presentation.

1. Several people will be selected to speak for no more than 4 minutes each. Video is required.
2. Use the chat function on Zoom to share questions, comments, links, other sources (100 word limit)
3. Send all more extensive comments to [mcworter@illinois.edu](mailto:mcworter@illinois.edu) by Wed noon that will be compiled and posted to [abdulslit](#) on Friday
4. Take the discussion into your classes, your networks and all other Black Studies contexts

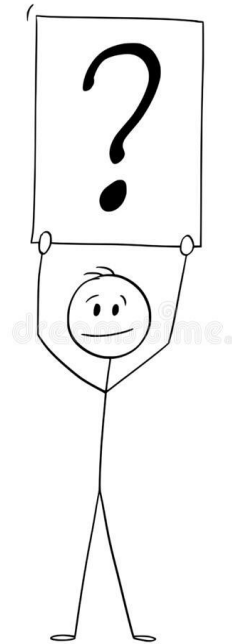
**We look forward to our collective intelligence.**

# Color

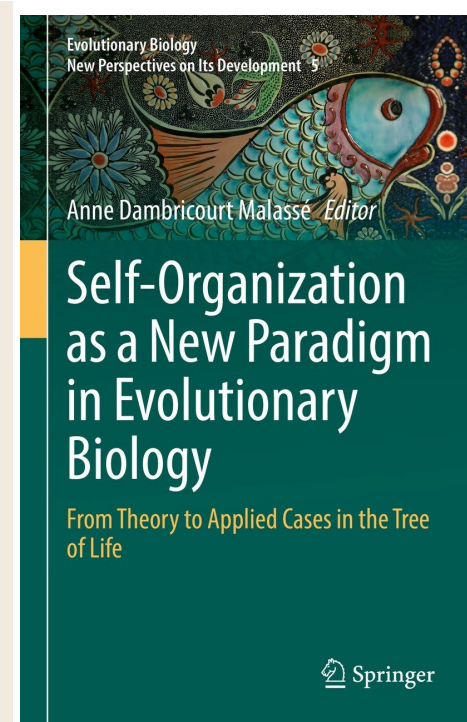
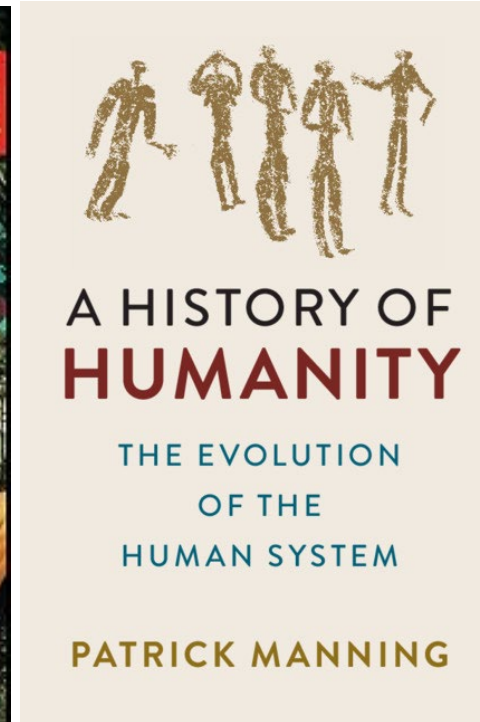
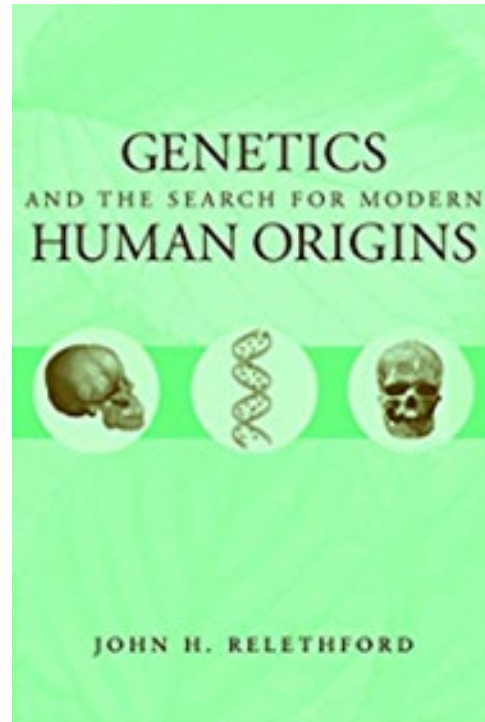
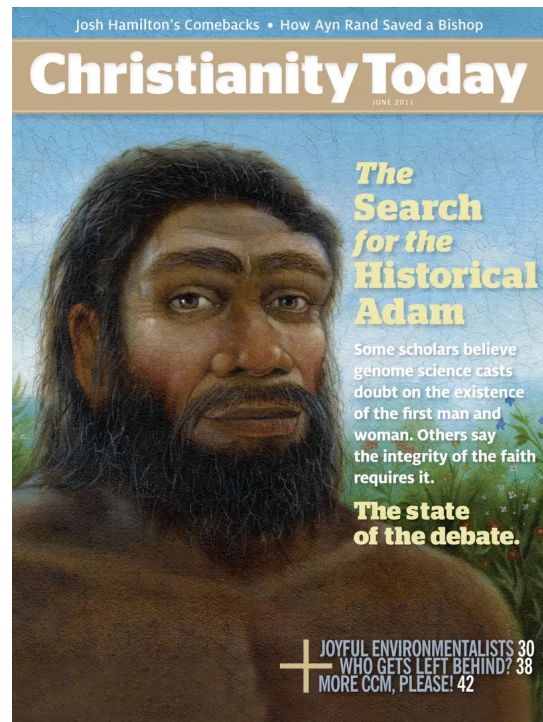
**Abdul Alkalimat**  
**IFA: Intro for all**  
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# Outline

1. Who are humans?
2. Racism versus “Race”
3. Physiology
4. Archeology
5. Genetics
6. Summation
7. Discussion



# The Origin of Humanity: Two Theories: Religion and Science



## Contrasting Beliefs and Empirical Evidence

# Religion

## Islam

"We created man from sounding clay, from mud into shape.." (15:26). "He began the creation of man from clay, and made his progeny from a quintessence of fluid" (32:7-8).

## IFA of the Yoruba

Odunmare sent Obatala to earth to create man. Obatala went to earth with the materials of creation. He descended upon Ife, the wide landmass, and began to create man out of clay

## Christianity

"The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."

Genesis 2/7



# Top 50 countries with largest population in 2050

Top 50 countries 8.3B. Rest of world 1.4B. Total 9.7B



# Imperialism vs Colonialism

## Definition

country policy to take over lands using diplomacy or force

the physical act of setting up colonies or territories in another country

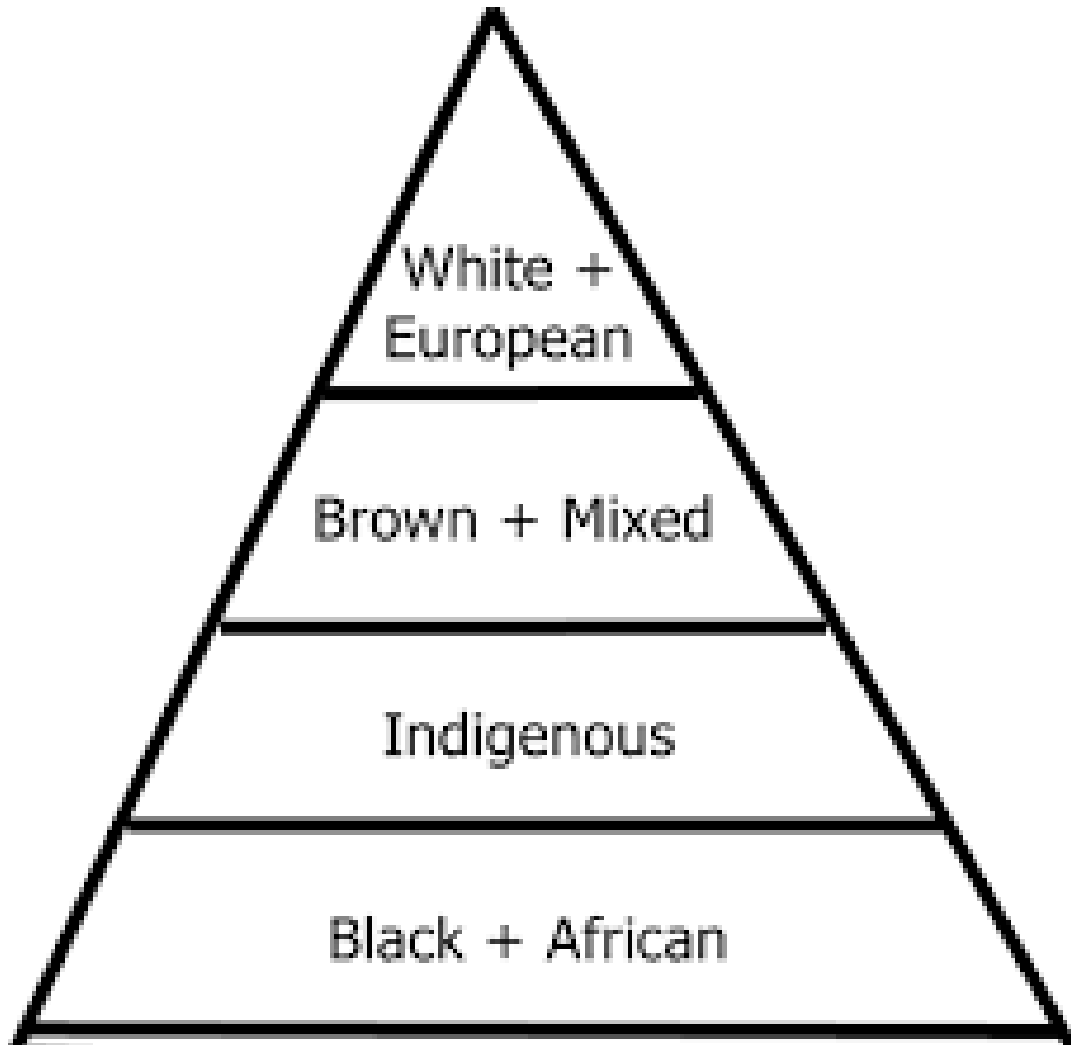
## Type

colony, protectorate, sphere of influence, economic imperialism

settler colonies, exploitation colonies, surrogate colonies, internal colonies



# Racism versus “Race”



# Racism

- 1) A universal classification of groups being in exclusive and discrete...
- 2) Ranking of these groups vis-à-vis one another...
- 3) Outer physical characteristics are surface manifestations of inner realities;
- 4) The notion that all of these qualities were inheritable...
- 5) The belief that each exclusive group was created unique and distinct by nature or by God



# Racism is what one believes, sees, and acts upon

Prejudice

Discrimination

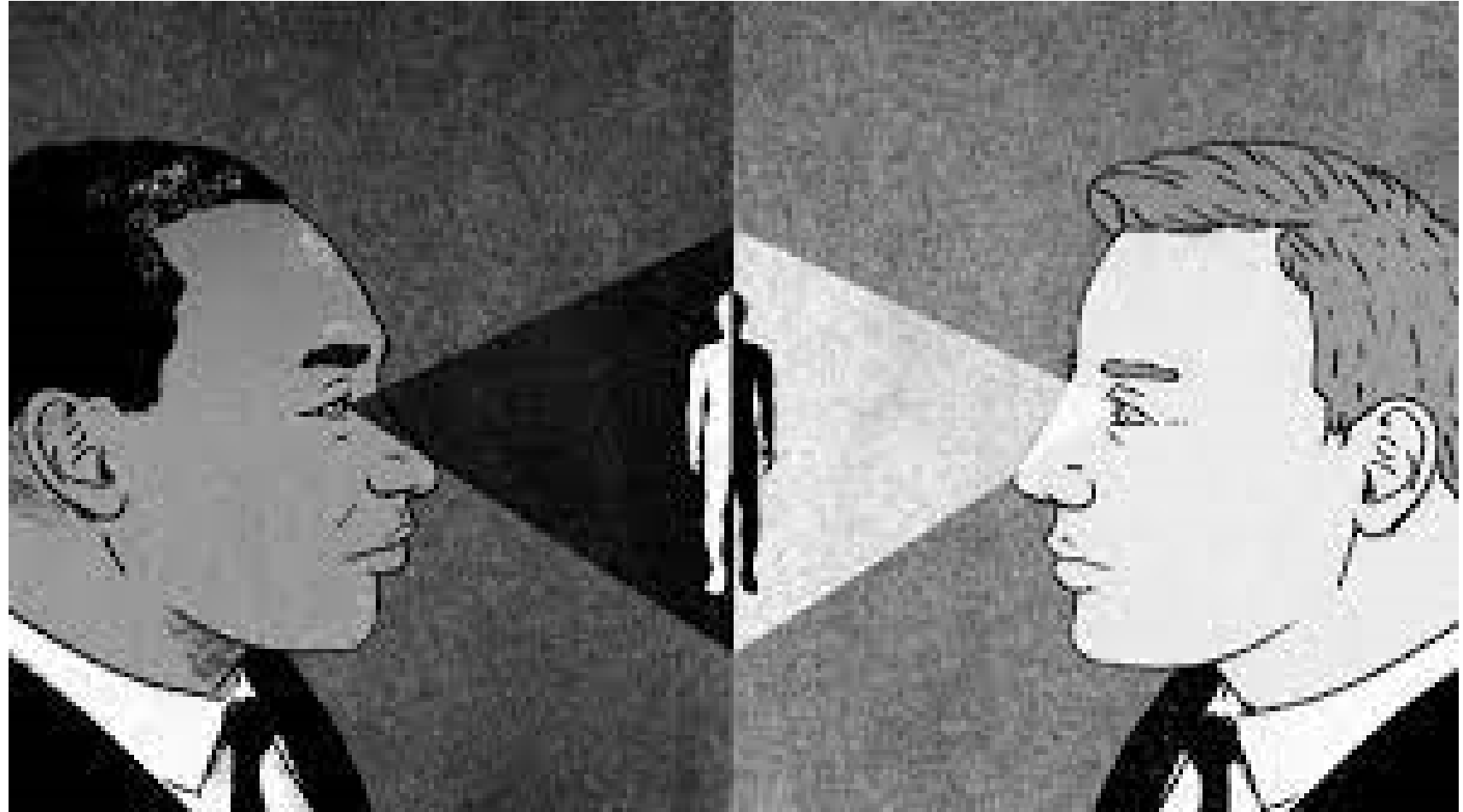
Segregation

Redlining

Gerrymandering

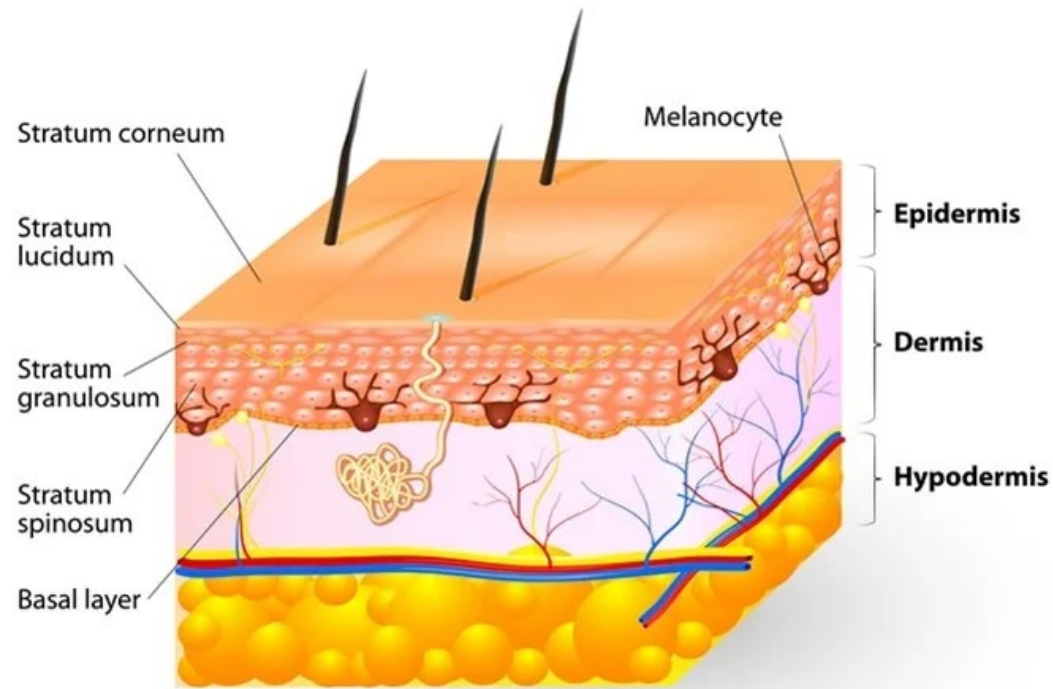
Quotas

Profiling

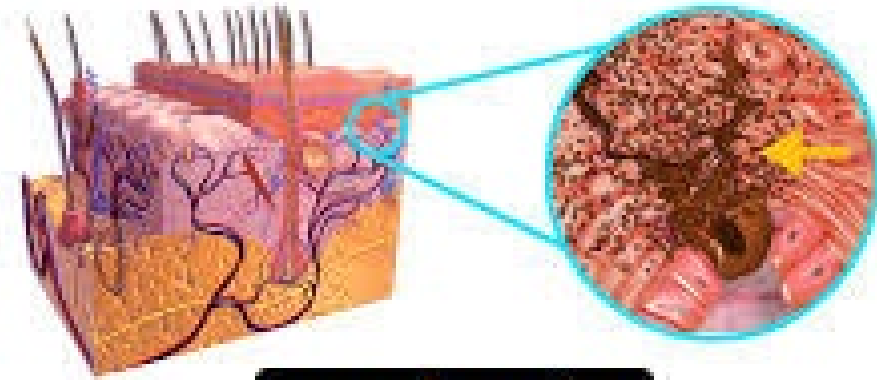


The key issue is who has **power!**

# THE LAYERS OF HUMAN SKIN



the pigment that gives skin its color and protects it from UV damage



**melanin**  
(skin health network)

## Scale of Skin Color Darkness



1

2

3

4

5

6

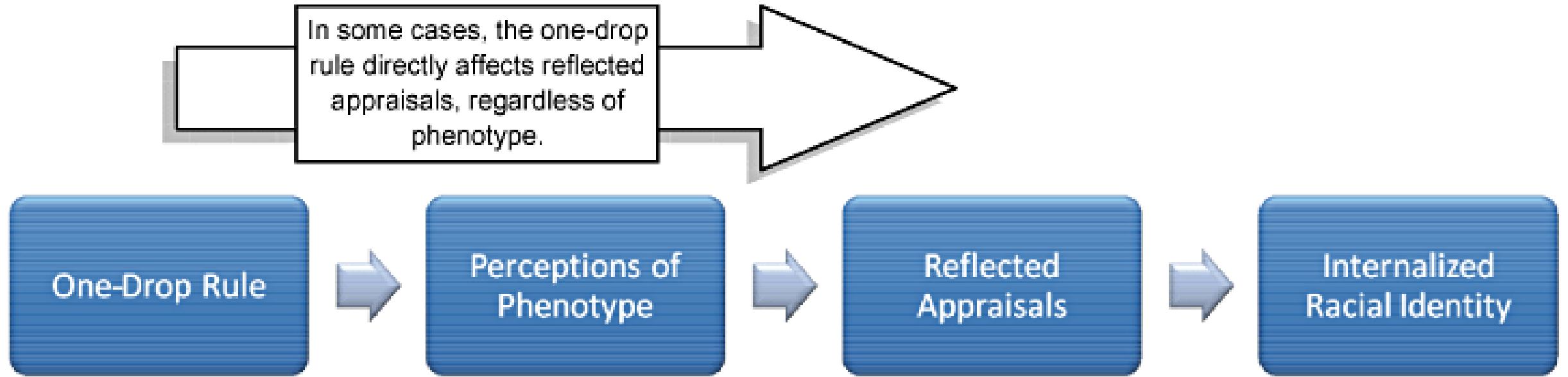
7

8

9

10

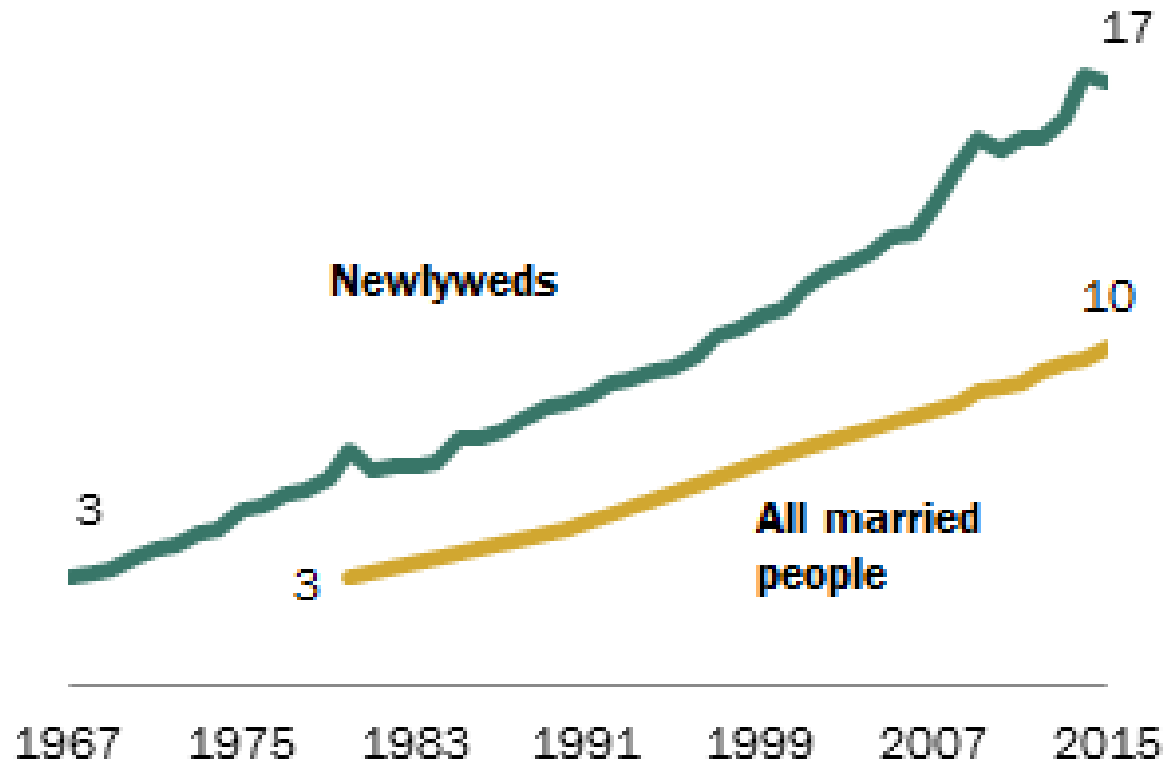
# Racism has a legal history in the US!



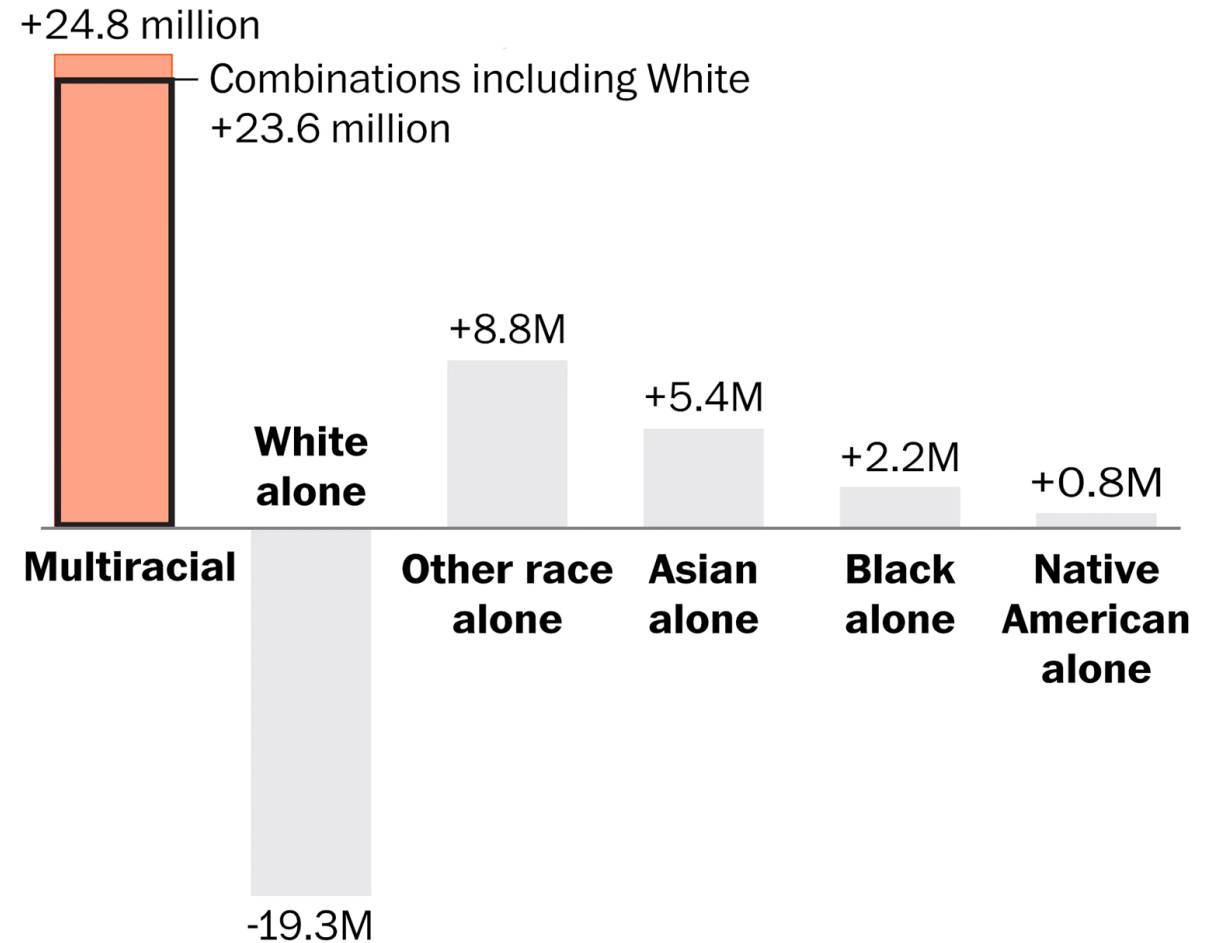
In 1911, Arkansas passed Act 320 (House Bill 79), also known as the “one-drop rule.” This law had two goals: it made interracial “cohabitation” a felony, and it defined as “Negro” anyone “who has...any negro blood whatever,” thus relegating to second-class citizenship anyone accused of having any African ancestry. Although the law had features unique to Arkansas, it largely reflected nationwide trends.

# Since 1967, a steady rise in intermarriage in the U.S.

*% who are intermarried among ...*



Here's how census numbers on race changed from 2010 to 2020

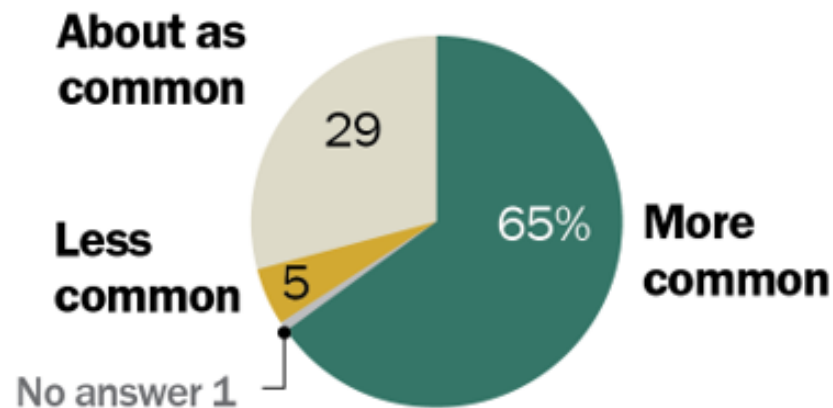


**What color is the US becoming?**

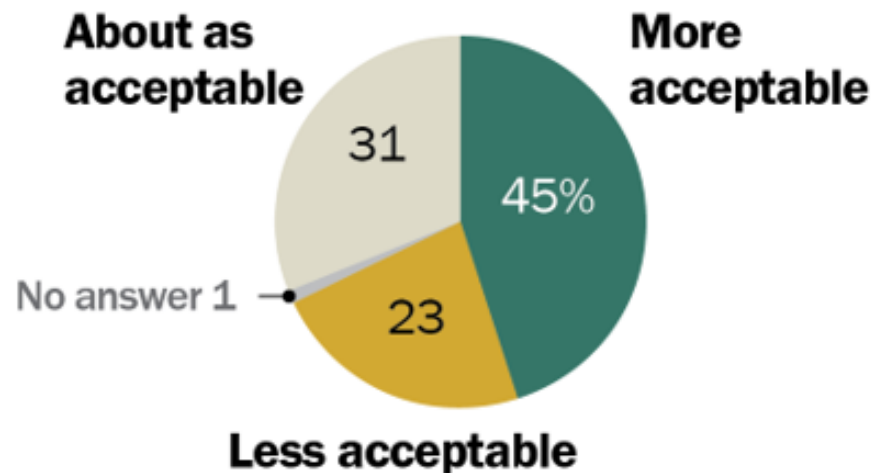
# Most say it's now more common for people to express racist or racially insensitive views

*% saying, since Trump was elected ...*

*It has become \_\_\_\_ for people to express racist or racially insensitive views*



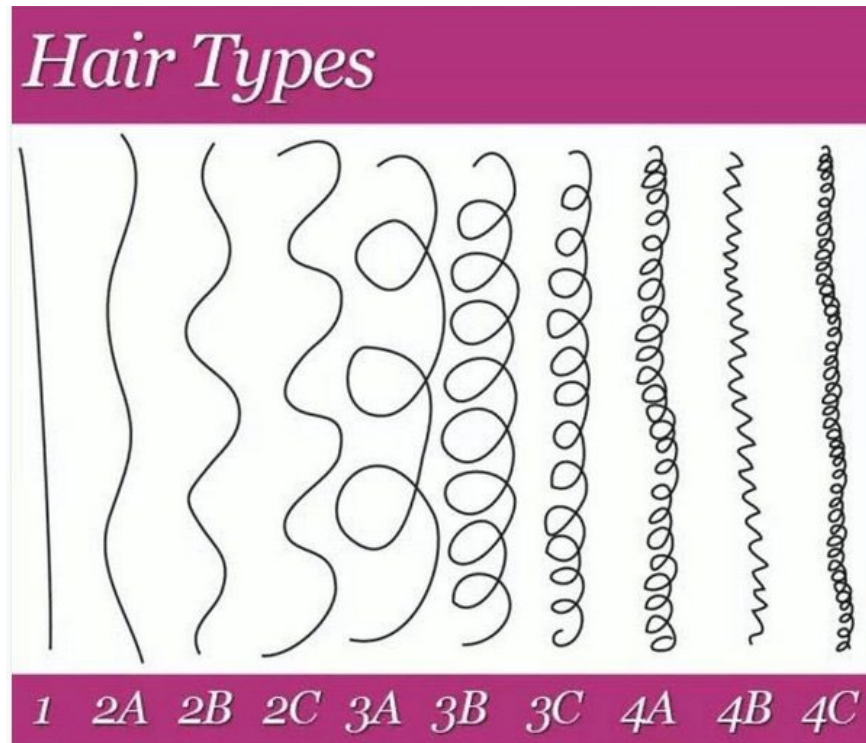
*It has become \_\_\_\_ for people to express racist or racially insensitive views*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 22-Feb. 5, 2019.  
"Race in America 2019"

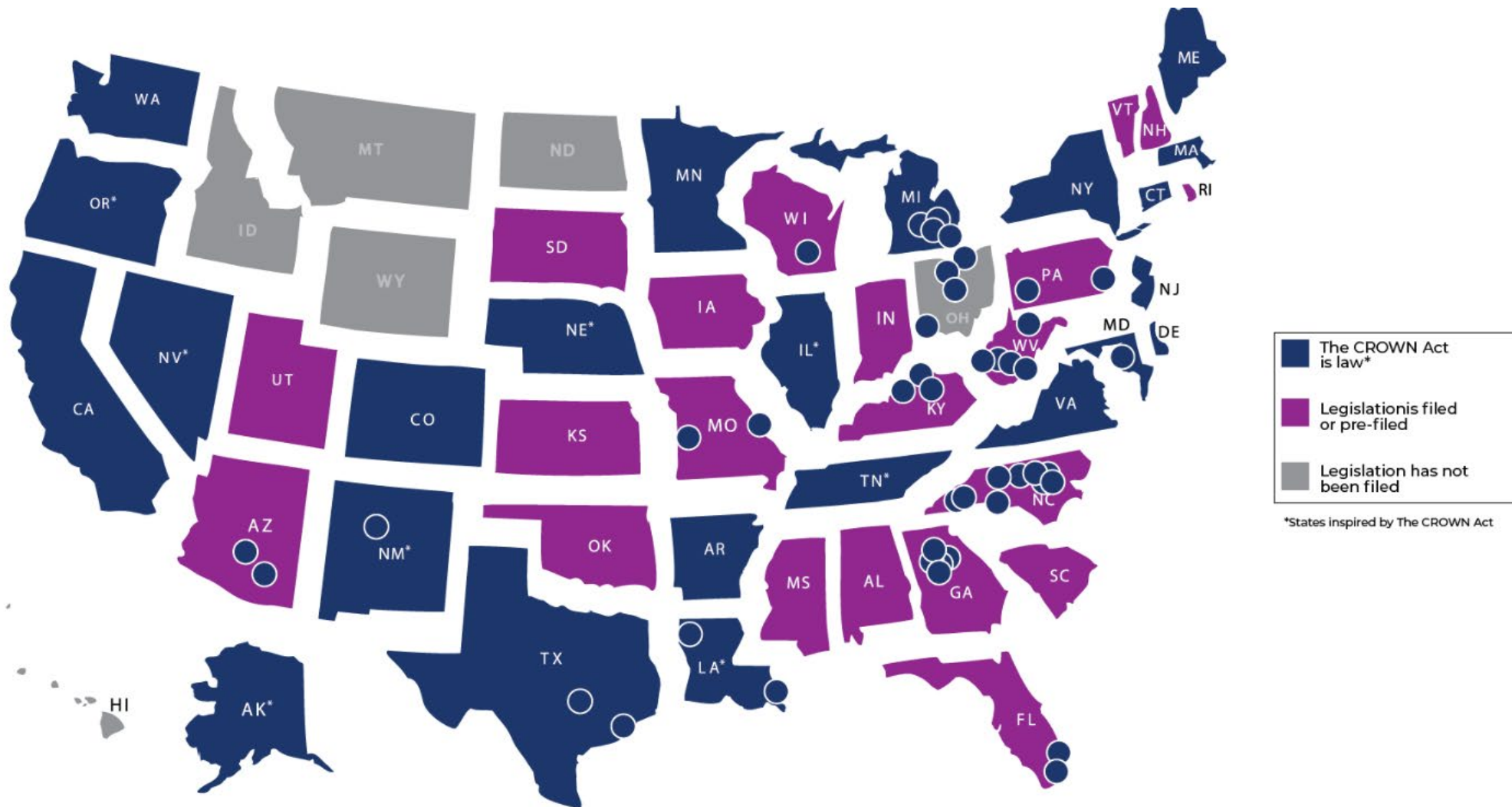
# Racism creates self-hate

Racism created a distinction between good hair and bad hair



Have we achieved Black hair liberation?





Imani Jackson spent 45 minutes every day putting a cap over her naturally curly hair and gluing a wig with straight hair in its place, according to federal court documents. One day, she stopped. Instead of the wig, Jackson — who is Black — began wearing her natural hair in a “neat bun,” attorneys said. Within a month, she was fired.

July, 2023  
Louisiana

**The Crown Act** legislation demands protection against race-based hair discrimination in the workplace and in K-12 public and charter schools based on hair texture and protected styles. As of 2023, the Crown Act has been enacted in 22 states.



Historical research has shown that the idea of "race" has always had meanings than mere physical differences; indeed, **physical variations in the human species have no meaning except the social ones that we have on them.** Today scholars in many fields argue that "race" as it is understood in the United States of America was a social mechanism invented during the 18th century to refer to those populations brought together in colonial America: the English and other European settlers, the conquered Indian peoples, and those peoples of Africa brought in to provide slave labor.

American Anthropological Association 1998

***Race is a socially constructed lie!!***

# How do we know the “race” concept is a lie?

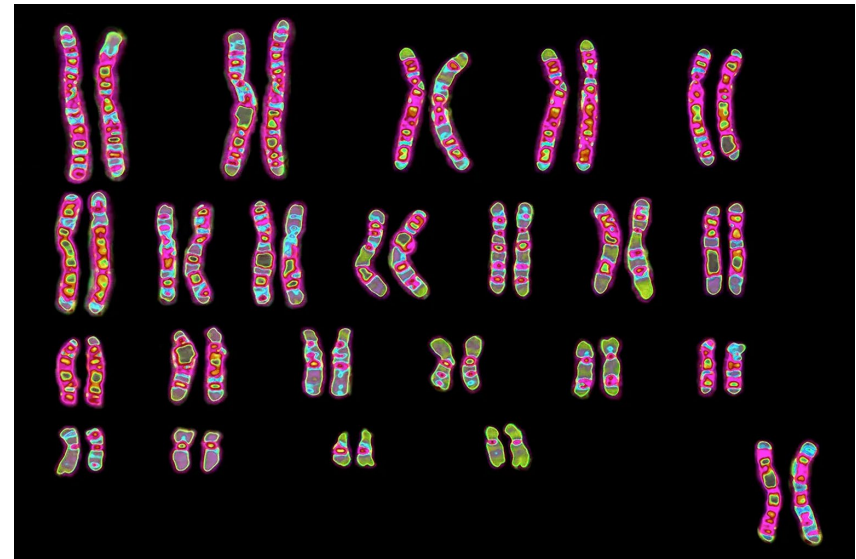
## Sources of scientific knowledge

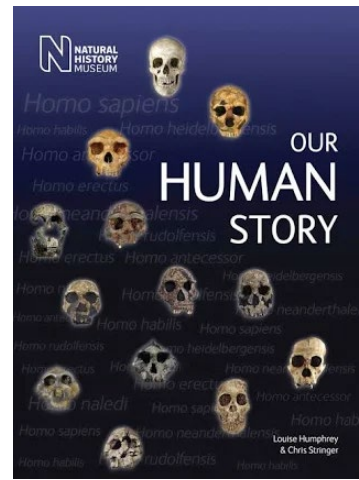
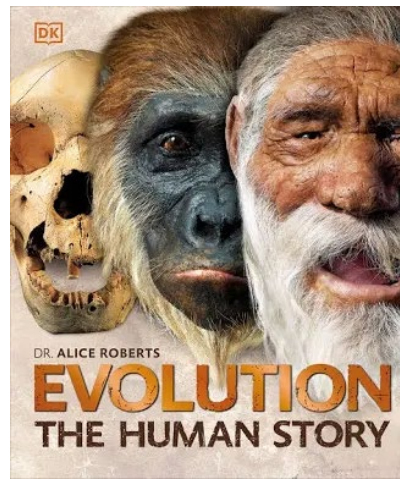
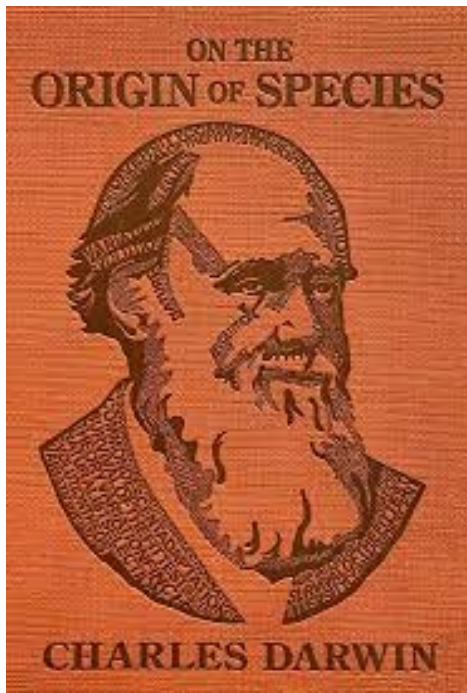
Archeology

Genetics

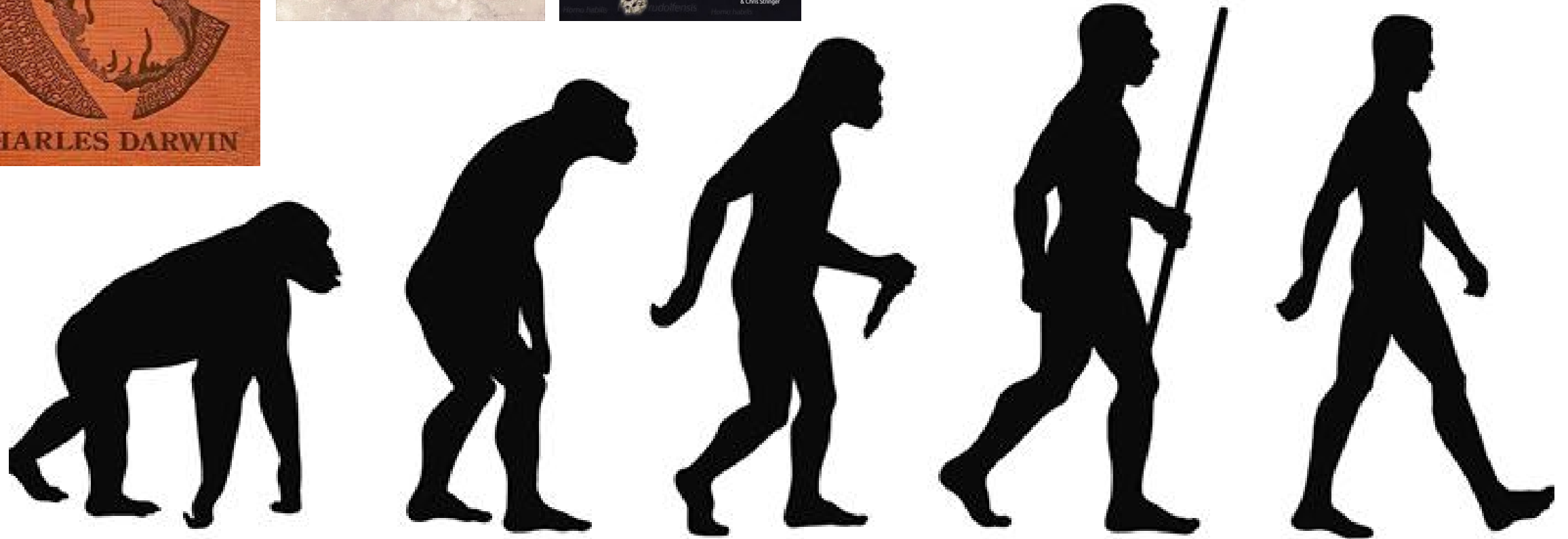
Anthropology

Evolutionary biology





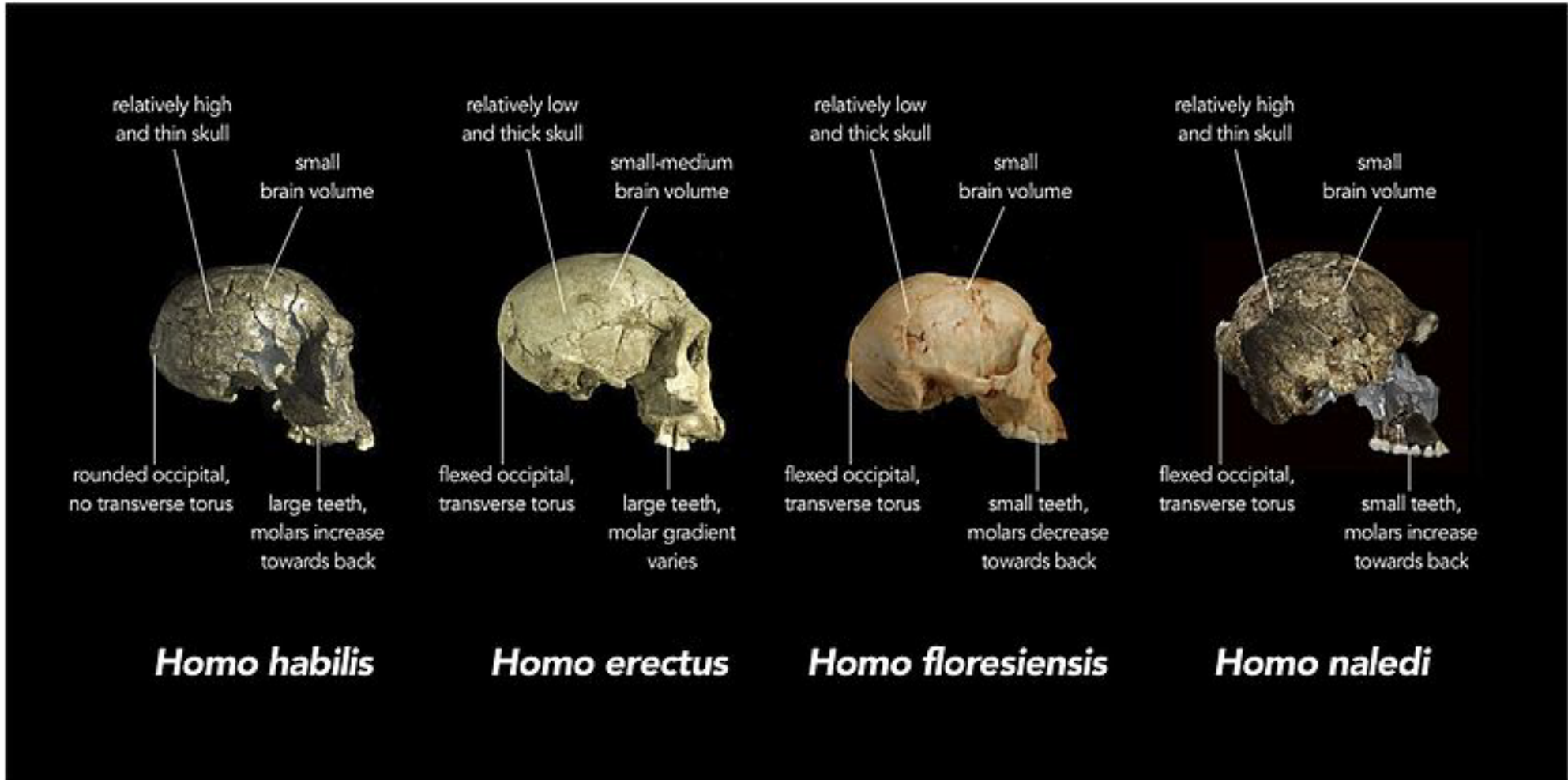
# Humans developed through evolution



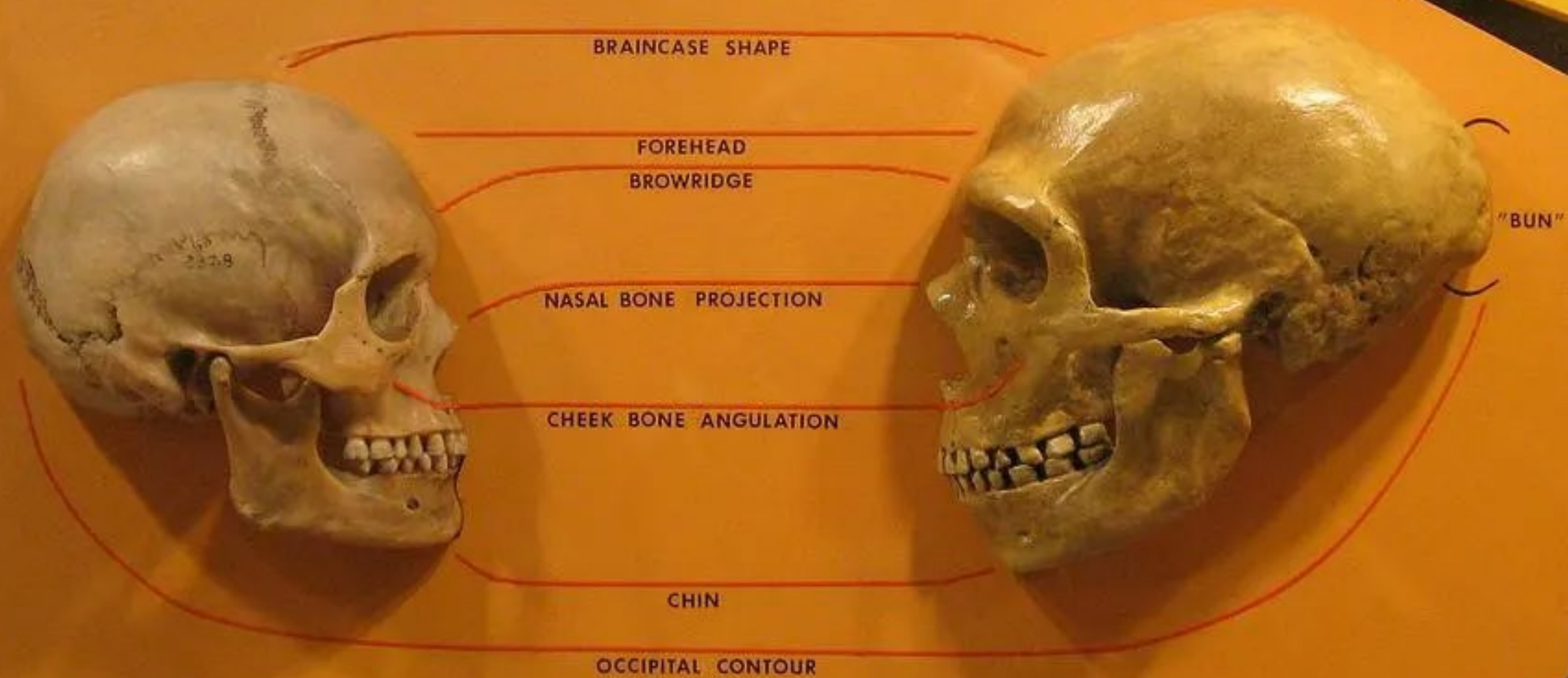
**We study the evolution of the human species**

February 4, 2023

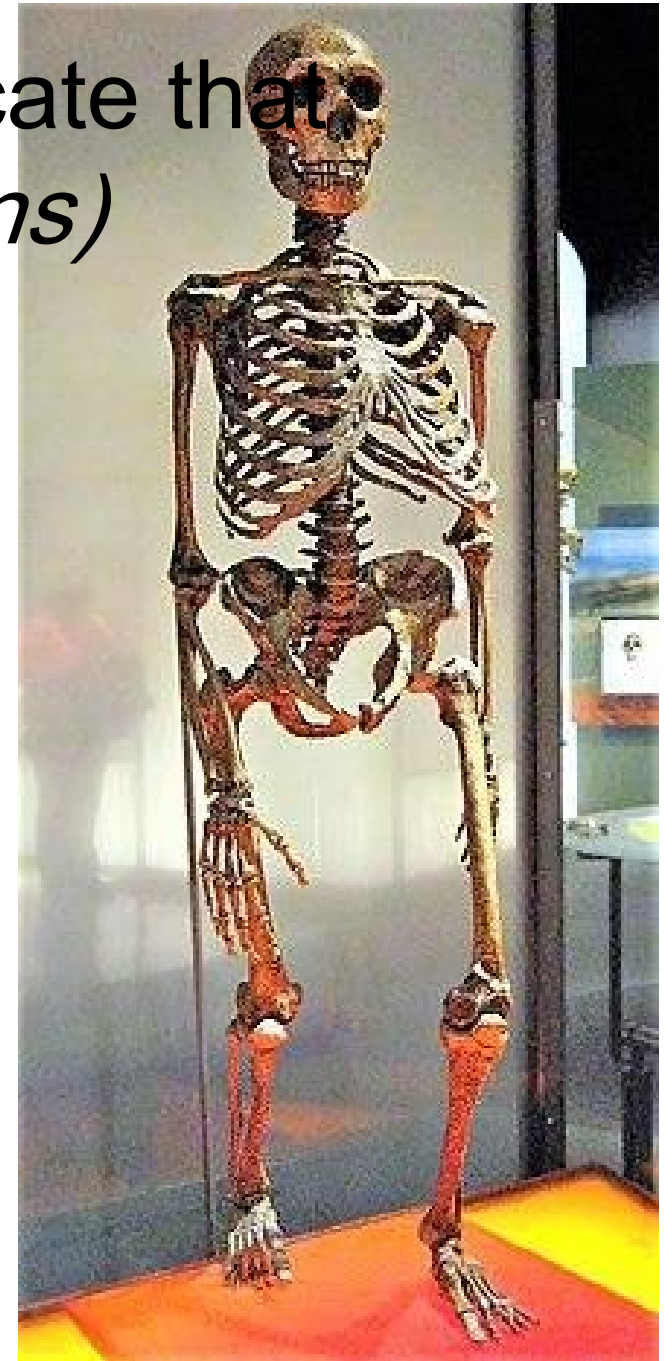
“In 2015, a new species of early human, named *Homo naledi*, was discovered in the Rising Star Cave in South Africa. This discovery, led by paleoanthropologist Lee Berger, is significant because it suggests that *Homo naledi* lived alongside other early human species, such as *Homo erectus* and *Homo habilis*, and may have coexisted with our own species, *Homo sapiens*, for tens of thousands of years.”



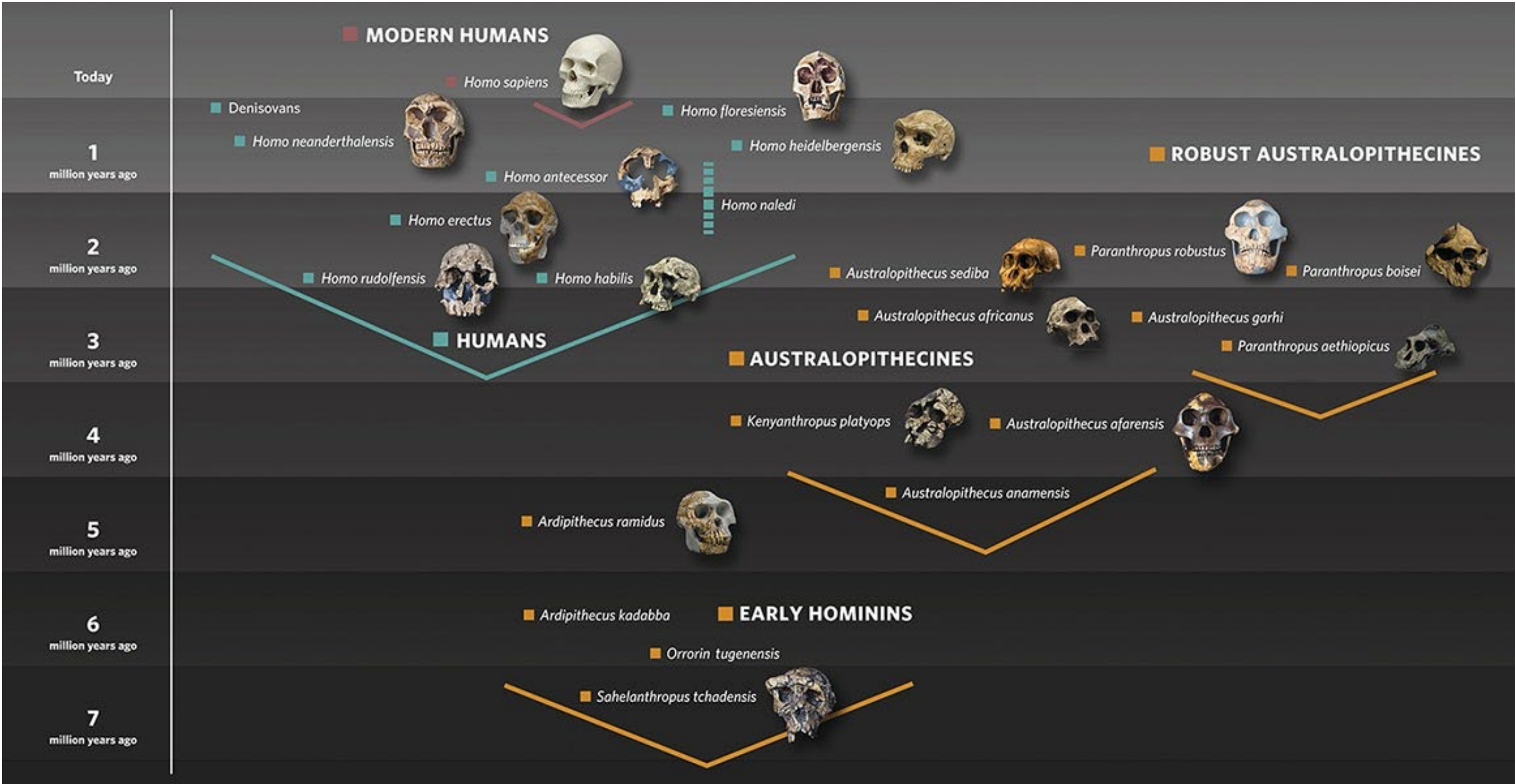
## Cranial features of Modern Man and Neanderthal compared

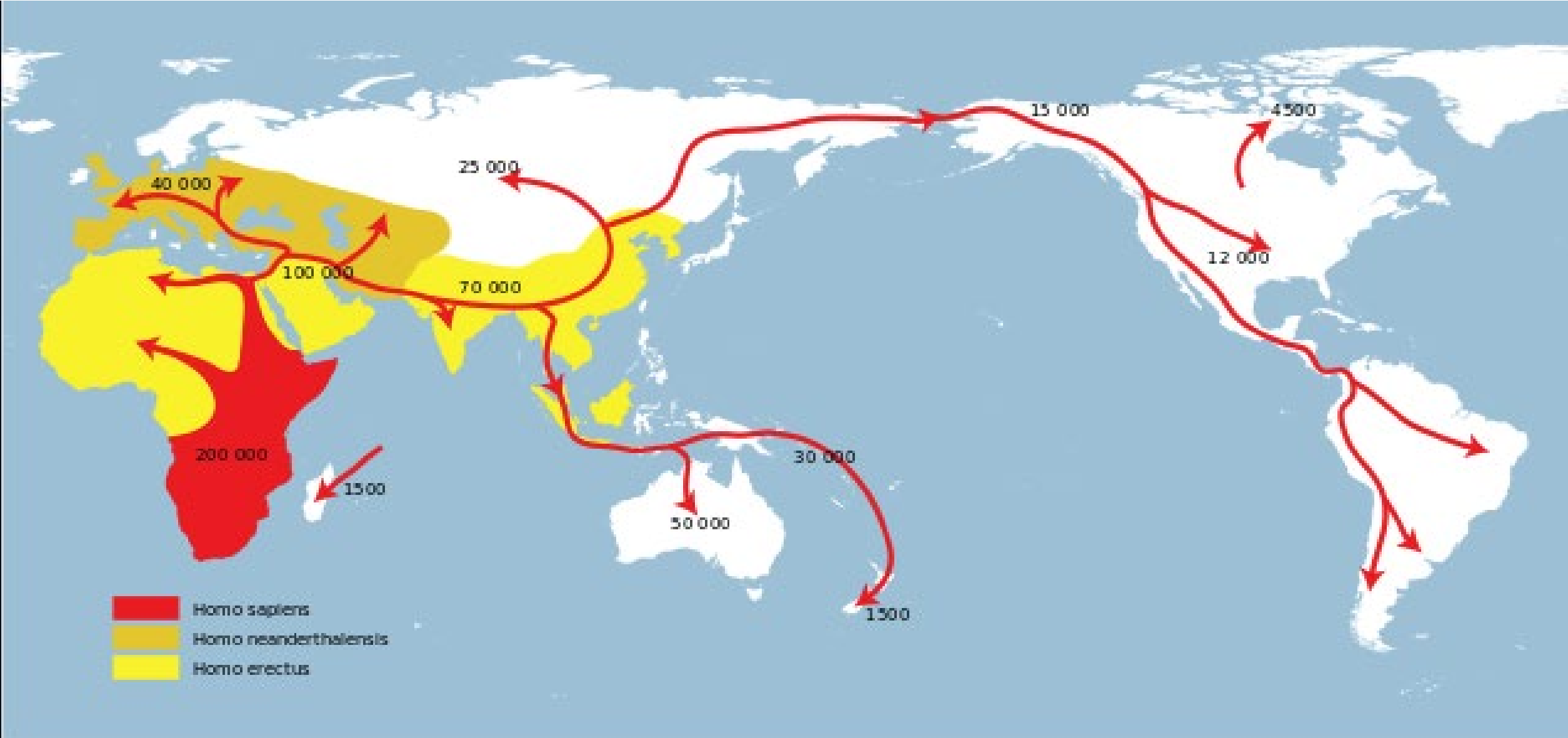


Both fossil and genetic evidence indicate that Neanderthals and modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) evolved from a common ancestor between 700,000 and 300,000 years ago. Neanderthals and modern humans belong to the same genus (*Homo*) and inhabited the same geographic areas in western Asia for 30,000–50,000 years; genetic evidence indicate while they interbred with non-African modern humans, they ultimately became distinct branches of the human family tree (separate species). **Smithsonian**









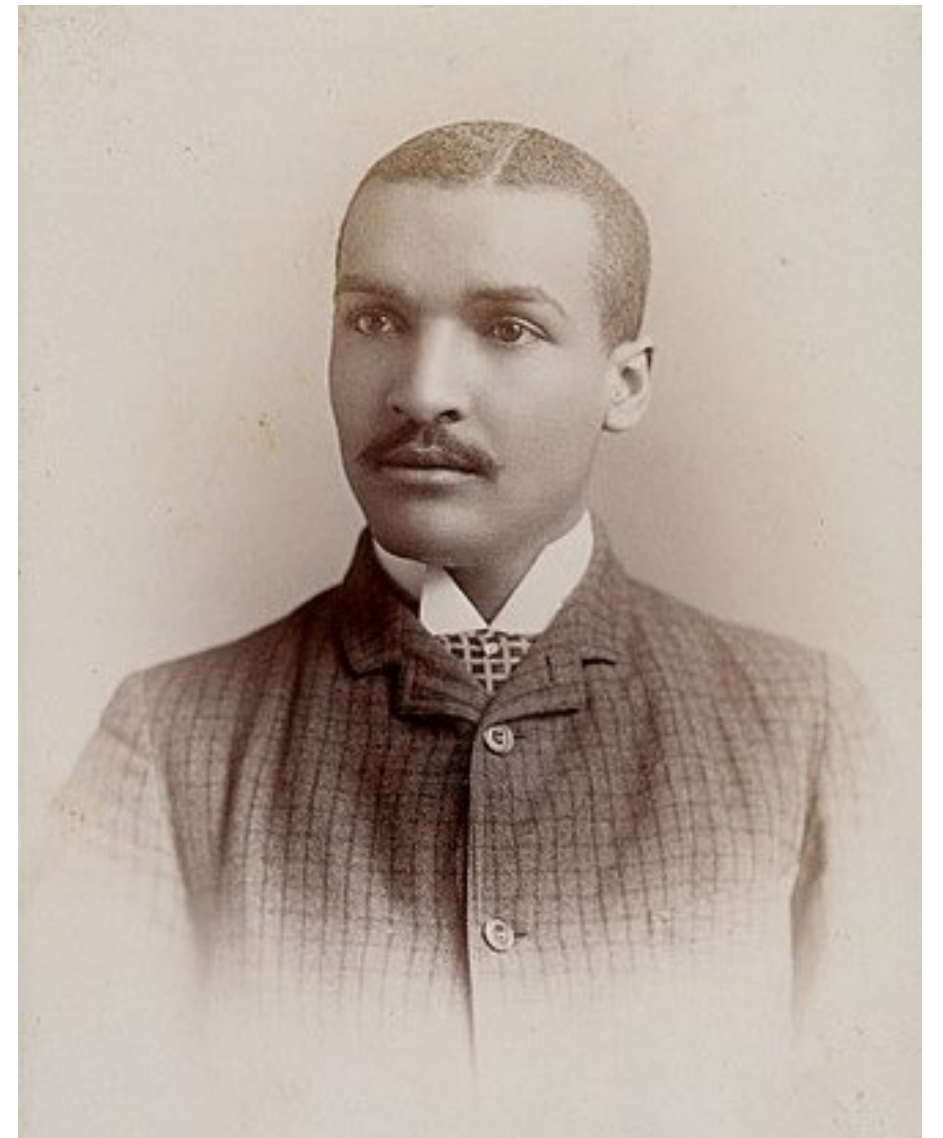
**There is one human species. The origin is Africa!**

# We need Black scientists!

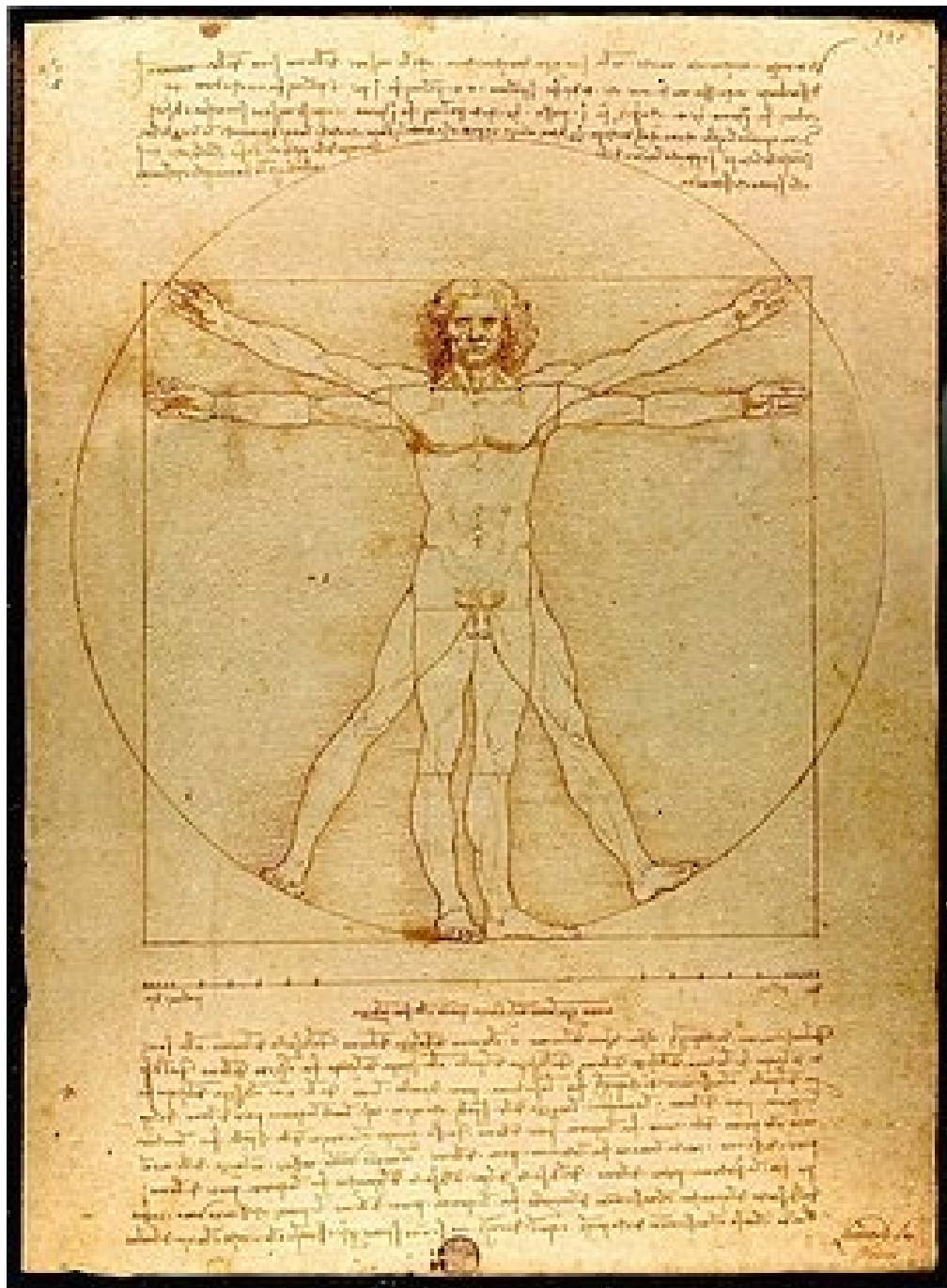
**The Society of Black Archaeologists** was created in 2011 with five goals in mind: **To** lobby on behalf and ensure the proper treatment of African and African Diaspora material culture. **To** encourage more people of African descent to enter the field of archaeology; **To** raise and address concerns related to African peoples worldwide; **To** highlight the past and present achievements and contributions that people of African descent have made to the field of archaeology; **To** ensure the communities affected by archaeological work act not just as objects of study or informants but are active makers and/or participants in the unearthing of their own history



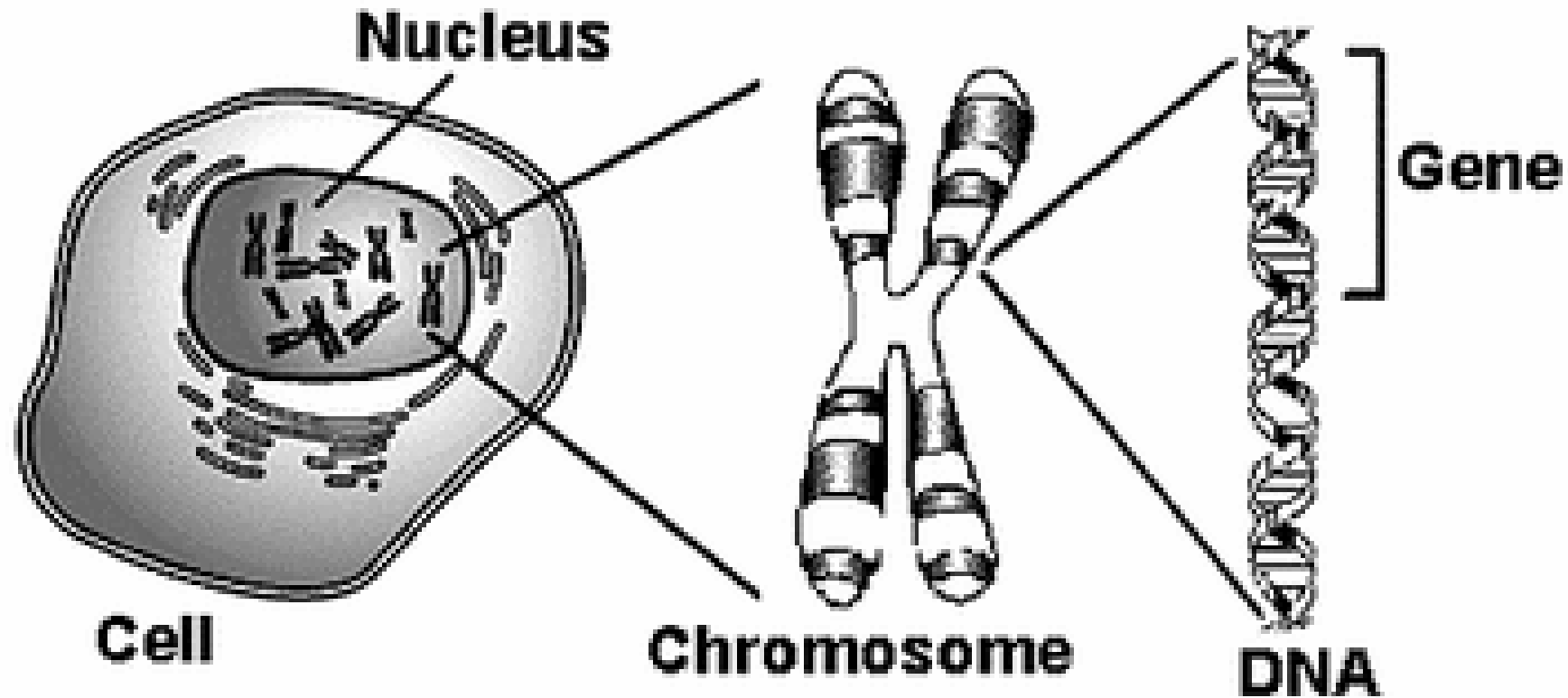
SOCIETY OF  
BLACK  
ARCHAEOLOGISTS



**John Wesley Gilbert** (1863<sup>[1]</sup> – 1923),  
the first Afro-American archaeologist



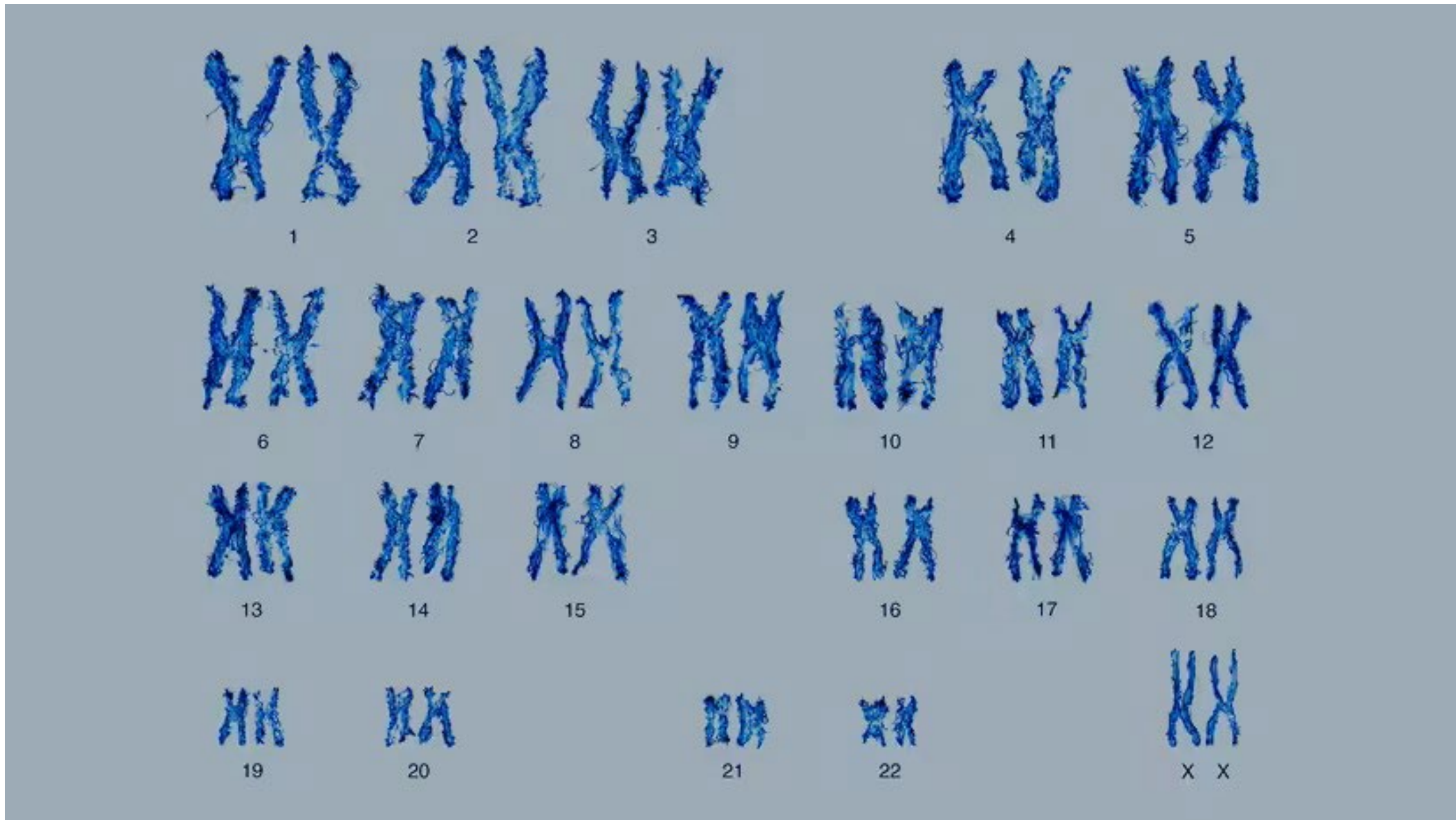
**First art, then science**



**DNA** is the building blocks of genes that contain the coded instruction for building and maintaining a body.

**Genes** are a portion of DNA that are tasked with making specific proteins that play a critical role in the structure and function of the body.

**Chromosomes** are structures containing many genes each.



Humans have 22 pairs of numbered chromosomes (autosomes) and one pair of sex chromosomes (XX or XY), for a total of 46. Each pair contains two chromosomes, one coming from each parent, which means that children inherit half of their chromosomes from their mother and half from their father.

# GENETIC VARIATION VERSUS ENVIRONMENTAL VARIATION

Genetic variation is the variation of genomes between individuals in the same species

Some examples include coat colors of animals, skin color, hair color, color of eyes, freckles, and dimples

Can be caused by mutations of genes, gene flow, random mating, random fertilization, and crossing over between homologous chromosomes

Pass through generations and through natural selection, and affect evolution

Environmental variation is the alteration of the phenotype of a particular genotype as a response to the environment

Phenotypic differences in identical twins are an example

Can be caused by the external environmental factors such as light, temperature, moisture, climate, exposure, minerals, diet, culture, & lifestyle

Do not cause changes in the genome, and have no effect on evolution

Visit [www.pediaa.com](http://www.pediaa.com)

## Environmental causes of variation

It is not just genes that determine a person's characteristics. What else has an effect on what you are like?



what you eat



where you live



your education



how much  
exercise you do



illness and injury

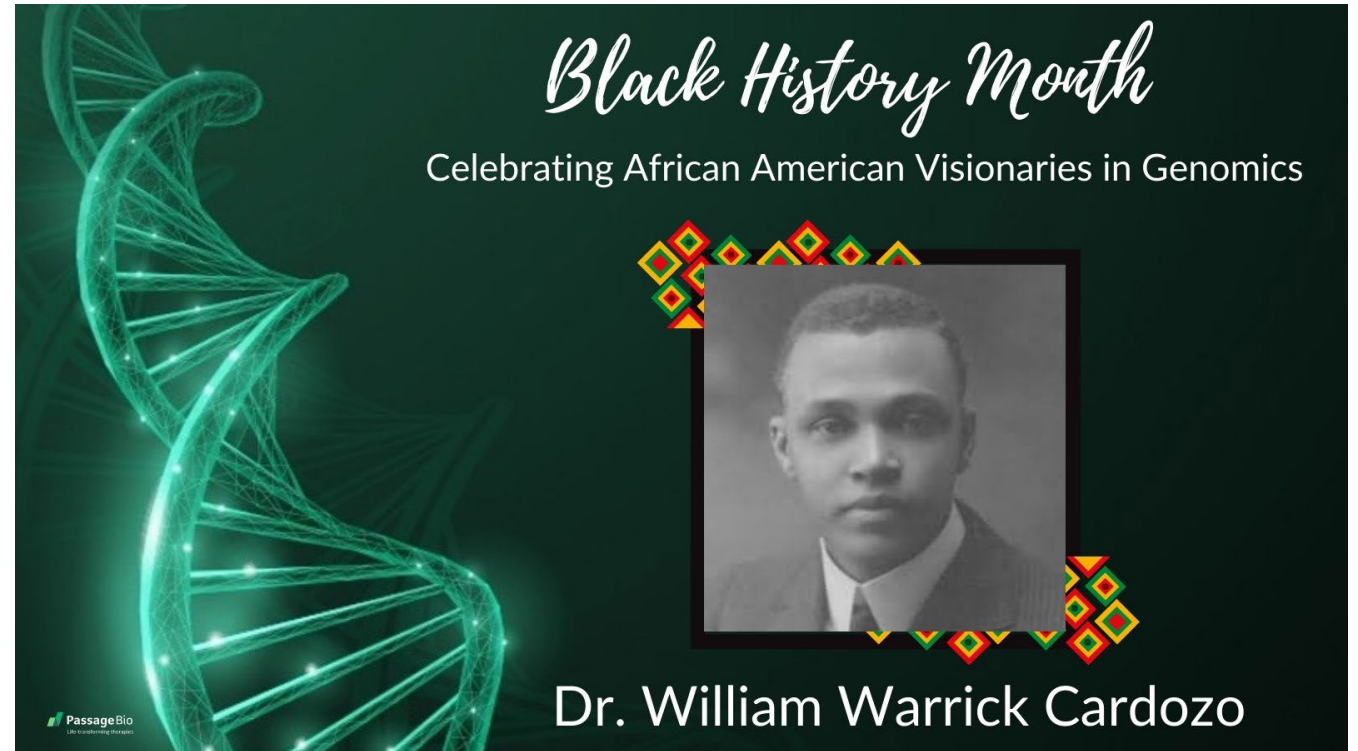
**Human evolution is dynamic and constantly changing on a global level**



**All human beings are 99.9 percent identical in their genetic makeup**



# We need Black scientists!



Dr. William Warrick Cardozo

1905-1962

Black In Genetics, Inc. (BIG) is an organization dedicated to amplifying the voices and work of Black-identifying geneticists across the U.S. and beyond. Some of our goals include connecting Black-identifying geneticists and trainees with organizations seeking to hire them, providing the scientific community with resources on understanding racial inequity in the Genetics field, educating the public on recent advancements in Genetics, and providing a platform to host conversations about dismantling systemic racism

# Summary

1. There are no races, only one human species
2. There are people who believe in racism
3. Racism is white supremacy
4. All physical features are superficial
5. Humans first evolved in Africa
6. All human populations are equal

