

## 人类学考古学

## 1. Prehistoric people of the Nevada desert

Today's lecture will **center on** prehistoric people of the **Nevada** desert. Now, most of these prehistoric desert people moved across the countryside throughout the year. You might think that they were **wandering** aimlessly—far from it! They actually followed a series of carefully planned moves. Where they moved depended on where food was available—places where plants were **ripening** or fish were **spawning**. Now often when these people moved, they carried all their **possessions** on their backs, but if the journey was long, extra food and tools were sometimes **stored** in caves or beneath rocks. One of these caves is now an exciting **archaeological** site. Beyond its small opening is a huge underground **grotto**. Even though the cave's very large, it was certainly too dark and **dusty** for the travelers to live in, but it was a great place to hide things, and tremendous amounts of food supplies and **artifacts** have been found there. The food includes dried fish, seeds, and nuts. The artifacts include stone **spear** points and knives; the spear **points** are actually rather small. Here's a picture of some that were found. You can see their size in relation to the hands holding them.

v. 关注、聚焦  
内华达州（美国西部内陆州）  
v. 漫游  
  
v. 成熟  
v. 产卵  
pl.. 财产  
  
v. 贮藏  
adj. 考古学的  
n. 岩穴  
adj. 积满灰尘的  
  
n. 史前古器物  
  
n. 矛  
n. 尖端

## 2. Homo erectus

Well, if there are no more questions, I would like to continue our discussion of human evolution by looking at **Homo erectus**, the earliest of our **ancestors** who **stood upright**. Homo erectus lived about one and a half million years ago and was given that name because, at the time the first **fossil** was discovered, it represented the first **primate** to stand upright. There is evidence now that Homo erectus had sharper **mental skills** than their **predecessors**. They **constructed** the first standardized tool for hunting and **butchering**. They created an extraordinary **stone implement**, a large teardrop-shaped hand ax whose design and **symmetry** reveal a keen **sense of aesthetics**. This **detailing**, along with the ax's **utilitarian value**, strongly suggests that Homo erectus had the ability to **conceive of** and **execute** a design to specification. In addition, Homo erectus was the first **hominid** to use fire. This discovery **enticed** them to cook meat, which they could flavor and keep from spilling by flame, and which **paleontologists** now believe may have given them a new disease. Some fossil bones of Homo erectus are grossly **deformed**, and paleontologists have noted that this condition is similar to that found in people today who have **been exposed to** chronic **overdoses** of vitamin A. Apparently Homo erectus first got this disease by eating large amounts of animal **liver**.

n. 东非直立人

n. 祖先

直立

n. 化石

n. 灵长类动物

N. 智力/ n. 前人

v. 造、建

n. 屠宰/ n. 石器

adj. ...形状的

n. 对称/ n. 美感

细节设计/实用价值

v. 构思、考虑

v. 完成、实现

n. 原始人类

v. 诱使

n. 古生物学者

Adj. 不成形的残的

遭受、面临

n. 过量

n. 肝脏

### 3. Human language

You'll recall that in last week's class I talked about how the sound made by most animals, though sometimes **complex**, are different from human language. Only in humans do these sounds **represent** objects and events. Keep in mind that most animals can only repeat their limited **utterances** over and over again, while humans can say things that have never been said before.

Today I want to focus on human language and how it developed. I doubt you'll be surprised when I say that the evolution of language was slow and **laborious**. There's some **reliable** evidence that language began with early humans a million and a half years ago. Through the study of the size and shape of brain fossils, scientists have determined that early human brains, like modern brains, had a left **hemisphere** slightly larger than the right hemisphere. We know that in modern humans, the left hemisphere's the seat of language. We also know that early human brains had a well-developed frontal section, known as **Broca's area**, which **coordinates** the muscles of the mouth and throat. It's clear, then, that early humans had a speech **apparatus**. They could produce any sound that we can. What we don't know is whether early humans used what they had. Since scholars know virtually nothing about **prehistoric** speech patterns, all they can do is **speculate** about how language actually **originated**. Let me give you a brief **summary** of some of these theories.

adj. 复杂的

v. 代表、象征

n. 发出的声音、话

adj. 艰苦的

adj. 可靠的

n. 半球

n. 布洛克区

v. 协调

n. 设备、器官

adj. 史前的/v. 推测

v. 起源、发生

n. 总结

#### 4. Basket weaving

Recently some **anthropologists** conducted an interesting **case study** in **ethnology**.

Now ethnology, as you recall, is a **branch** of **anthropology** that deals with how various cultures develop and change.

The study was about the development of basket **weaving** by African-American women who live in the town of Mount Pleasant, **South Carolina**. The town is known for its high quality **sweet grass** baskets which are **woven** by these women. They've been weaving the baskets for generations, handing down the skill from mother to daughter. Some of the baskets have been placed on **permanent** display at the **Philadelphia Museum of Art**.

The origin of their basket weaving **dates back to** the 17th century and even earlier when these women's **ancestors** came to the United States from the west coast of Africa. Now, it's mainly a hobby. But back in the 17th and 18th century, African American women **wove** the baskets for use on the rice **plantations**. There were two types of baskets then: **workbasket** and baskets for use in the home. The workbaskets were made out of **bulrushes**.

Bulrushes are long, tough grass that grows in **marshes**. One type of workbaskets was the fan basket which was used to separate **grains** of rice from the waste. The baskets used in the homes were made out of more delicate sweet grass. They were used for everything from fruit baskets to baby **cradles**.

n. 人类学家  
个案研究

n. 人种学

n. (学科的) 分支

n. 人类学

weave: v. 编织

南卡罗来纳州

白菖蒲

weave 的过去分词

adj. 持久的

费城艺术博物馆

v. 回溯追溯

n. 祖先

weave 的过去式

n. 种植园

n. 针线篮(筐)

n. 芦苇

n. 沼泽

n. 谷粒

n. 摇篮