

Modern humans came from Botswana

1st November, 2019



A new study claims that the origin of modern humans is in Botswana. The study is published in the journal 'Nature'.

Researchers in the study said they used DNA to find

out where modern humans came from. The researchers believe we all have roots in a region of northern Botswana, south of the Zambezi River. Humans were there 200,000 years ago. They lived there for at least 70,000 years before they moved around the African continent. They then started migrating to what is now Europe and Asia. Researcher Professor Vanessa Hayes, from the University of Sydney in Australia, said: "We've known for a long time that modern humans originated in Africa roughly 200,000 years ago."

The researchers pinpointed an area called Okavango as being the place we come from. There used to be a huge lake there but it is now salt flats. The people had access to water, hunting and farmland. Scientists analyzed DNA samples from 200 people who live near the area today. They are from the Khoisan people. The Khoisan now live in modern-day South Africa and Namibia. They had a lot of DNA called L0, which is the oldest form of DNA known to be inside humans. Professor Hayes explained why L0 is important. She said: "Every time a new migration occurs, that migration event is recorded in our [L0 and] DNA as a time-stamp.... Everyone walking around today...comes from this region."

Sources: metro.co.uk / aljazeera.com / newatlas.com

Writing

It is very important to know where humans came from. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

origin / humans / DNA / Botswana / moved / researcher / long time / modern / years / area / lake / water / hunting / farmland / important / migration / time-stamp / today

True / False

- The research was published in a journal called 'Origins'. T / F
- Modern humans originated in an area north of the Zambezi River. T / F
- Humans lived in the area in Botswana for 200,000 years. T / F
- The professor in the article is from the University of Botswana. T / F
- The area that is our origins are salt flats today. T / F
- Scientists looked at the DNA of 200 people local to the area for our origins. T / F
- A form of DNA called L0 acts as a time stamp in our body. T / F
- A professor said most people today come from that region. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| 1. origin | a. moving |
| 2. came from | b. examined |
| 3. region | c. about |
| 4. migrating | d. happens |
| 5. roughly | e. originated |
| 6. pinpointed | f. shown |
| 7. analyzed | g. beginnings |
| 8. near | h. found |
| 9. occurs | i. close to |
| 10. recorded | j. area |

Discussion – Student A

- Where did you think humans came from?
- How far back do your roots go?
- Do you like reading journals?
- How important is your homeland to you?
- What do you know about Botswana?
- How do you think people lived 200,000 years ago?
- What is a 'modern human'?
- How are modern humans different from older humans?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. the origin | a. least 70,000 years |
| 2. The study is published in | b. DNA |
| 3. we all have roots in a | c. 200,000 years ago |
| 4. They lived there for at | d. occurs |
| 5. in Africa roughly | e. to water |
| 6. The researchers pinpointed | f. of modern humans |
| 7. The people had access | g. stamp |
| 8. They had a lot of | h. the journal 'Nature' |
| 9. Every time a new migration | i. an area called Okavango |
| 10. a time- | j. region of northern Botswana |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you think of the fact that we are all African?
- Would you like to visit Okavango?
- Are we all the same or different?
- Are you more of a farmer or hunter?
- What do you know about DNA?
- Where would you like to migrate to?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- the igonn of modern humans
- published in the ualrno 'Nature'
- in a goenir of northern Botswana
- they moved around the African ceoittnn
- They then started igrinamgt
- hugroyl 200,000 years ago
- The researchers ndeptnioi an area
- The people had scaesc to water
- Scientists analyzed DNA asmselp
- sopfserro Hayes explained
- Every time a new migration csruoc
- ceerodrd in our L0 and DNA

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. j	4. a	5. c
6. h	7. b	8. i	9. d	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Dubai

You think Dubai is the best place to migrate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): London, Shanghai or San Francisco.

Role B – London

You think London is the best place to migrate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): Dubai, Shanghai or San Francisco.

Role C – Shanghai

You think Shanghai is the best place to migrate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): London, Dubai or San Francisco.

Role D – San Francisco

You think San Francisco is the best place to migrate to. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their places. Also, tell the others which is the least desirable of these (and why): London, Shanghai or Dubai.

Speaking – Migration

Rank these with your partner. Put the best place to migrate to at the top at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| • Botswana | • Buenos Aires |
| • Dubai | • Shanghai |
| • Sydney | • Hyderabad |
| • San Francisco | • London |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.