



THE FOUNDATIONS OF COMPLEX SOCIETIES

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- (Essential Questions)

- Where did Humans come from?
- How did we get to this point in Human evolution?
 - Where are we headed as a species?
 - What are Complex Societies?

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Where did we come from?



- You can look at this from to points of view

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- The first is...



- **Religion** - You have creation stories based around religious events

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- The second is...



- **Science** – Looking at evolution, carbon dating and astrological events.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



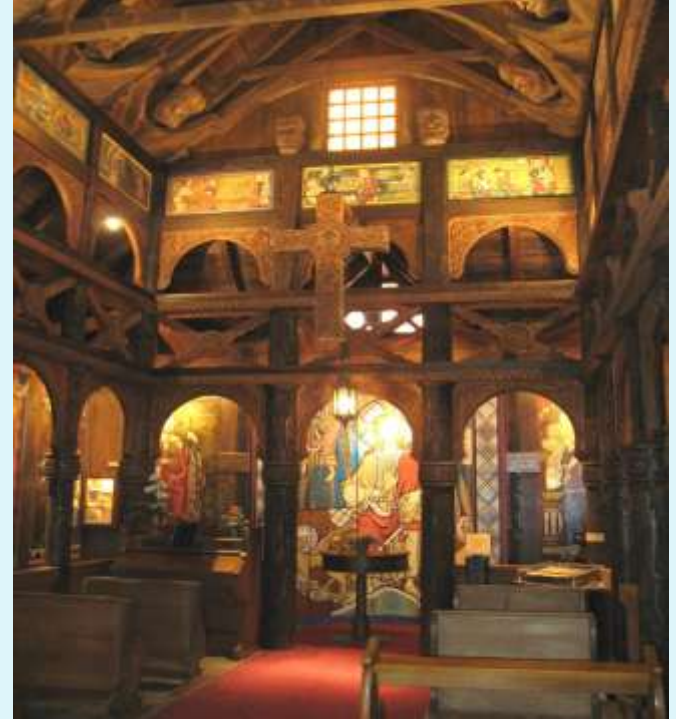
- Through the religious points of view you will find fantastic tales, myths legends and wonderful events that have shaped the world...**creation stories**

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



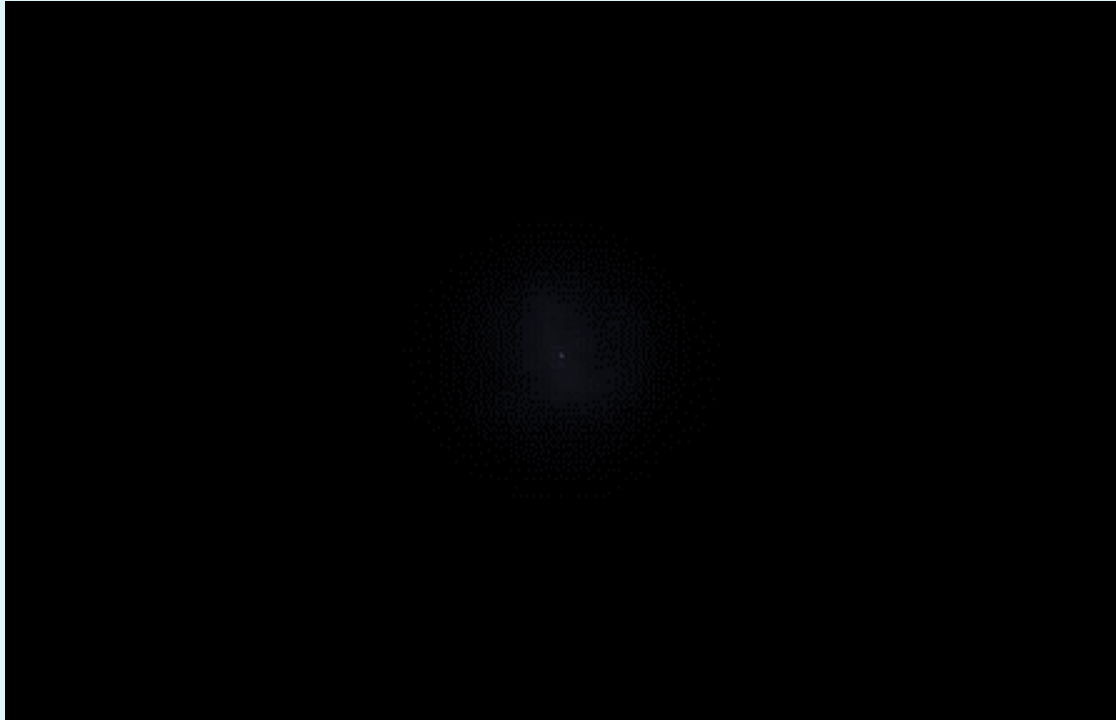
- Every ancient complex culture has some type of story that shapes their foundations... today in many cases we see them as nothing more than mythology

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Nordic Mythology (Vikings) (Hopperstad Stave Church)

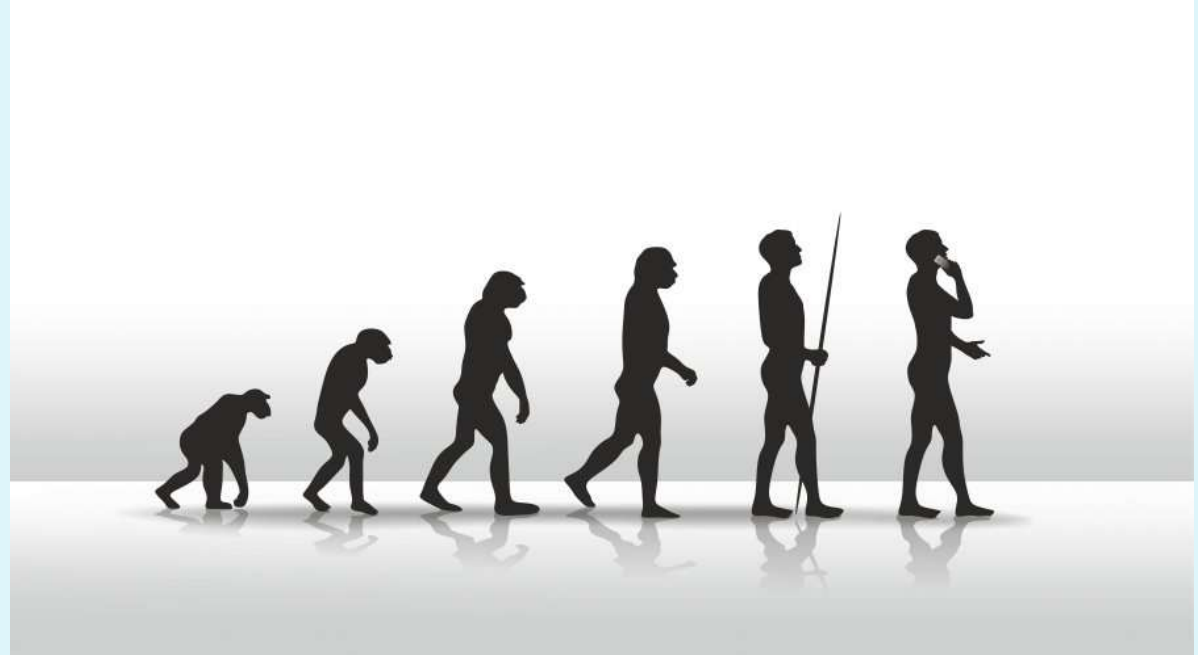
WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Through science, again like religion you have accounts that revolve around certain knowledge and evidence...**The Big Bang** is a perfect example of this.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- **Evolution** ... another example of a scientific way of interpreting life... A gradual process in which something changes into a different and usually more complex form.



- A process of developing.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- **Carbon Dating** - The determination of the approximate age of an ancient object, such as an archaeological specimen, by measuring the amount of carbon 14 (radiation) it contains.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

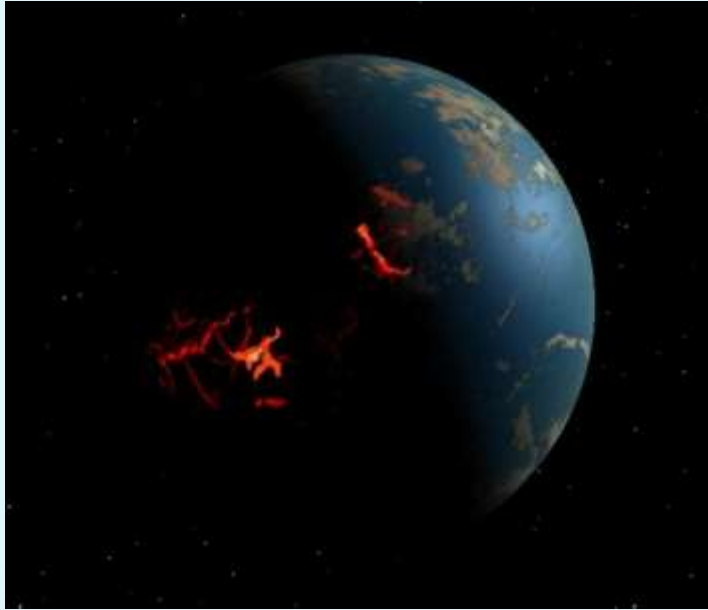
- It is also entirely possible to misinterpret information... viewpoints change, new information is discovered and new truths are revealed.



- What are they going to say about this in 1000 years...

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Throughout the class we will explore both sides of the story when we look at different cultures and countries...



- But right now lets focus on the Earth which is about 4.5 billion years old...and has seen a lot of shifts and changes in owners.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- **The Paleolithic Era** - (Stone Age) Is a time in human between about 2.5 million and 20,000 years ago.



- It begins with the earliest human like behaviors of crude stone tool manufacture, and ends with modern human hunting and gathering societies.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- During the Paleolithic Era, humans grouped together in small societies and began to learn from each other and develop communication skills



- **Band Societies** - Humanities simplest form...basic human interaction.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Then about 9500 B.C.E. the **Neolithic Era** began.



- This was a period where early humans development in the Middle East and began the beginning of a modern style of farming.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Farming will be our primary focus today...

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



■ What did you have for breakfast today???

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- ...and what is they key ingredient in all of those items????

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Have you even seen the bread isle at the grocery store?

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- So lets talk about grain and why it is so important to the human race.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- About **12,000** years ago, humans crossed an important threshold when they began to experiment with agriculture...farming

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Prior to the fundamental advancements in agriculture our ancestors relied heavily on foraging...but there are a few problems with that.



- **Foraging** – The act of searching for food or other provisions...hunting as well

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- The methods of **foraging** became too unpredictable to sustain large populations.



- It quickly became clear that cultivation of crops provided a larger and more reliable food source than **foraging**.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Groups of early humans that turned to agriculture over foraging experienced an extreme rapid population growth

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- This population growth led to the first **permanent settlements**...opposed to the hunter gatherer methods that was closely related to **nomadic tribes**. (City of Ur)

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- **Nomadic Tribe** – “Nomads” people who have no permanent home but move about according to the seasons or game

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- There are still large bands of modern nomadic tribes living in various places throughout the world today.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Some of these early settlements then grew into the first cities and the world's first **complex societies**. (City of Jericho, Palestine)

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- **Complex Society** – a form of large scale organization in which productive agricultural economies produced a surplus of food.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- This surplus of food allowed people to devote time to specialized task, other than food production. (3500B.C.E.)

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- During the centuries from 3500 to 500 B.C.E. (Before Common Era) complex societies arose independently in several regions of the world...



- Now you may be familiar with the old way of naming dates like, “**B.C.**”, or “**Before Christ**” and “**A.D.**”, or “**Anno Domini**”...Anno Domini is a phrase that comes from the Latin Language and means “In the Year of the Lord”.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Mesopotamia, Modern Day Iraq

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



■ Egypt

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Northern India, Indus River Valley

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

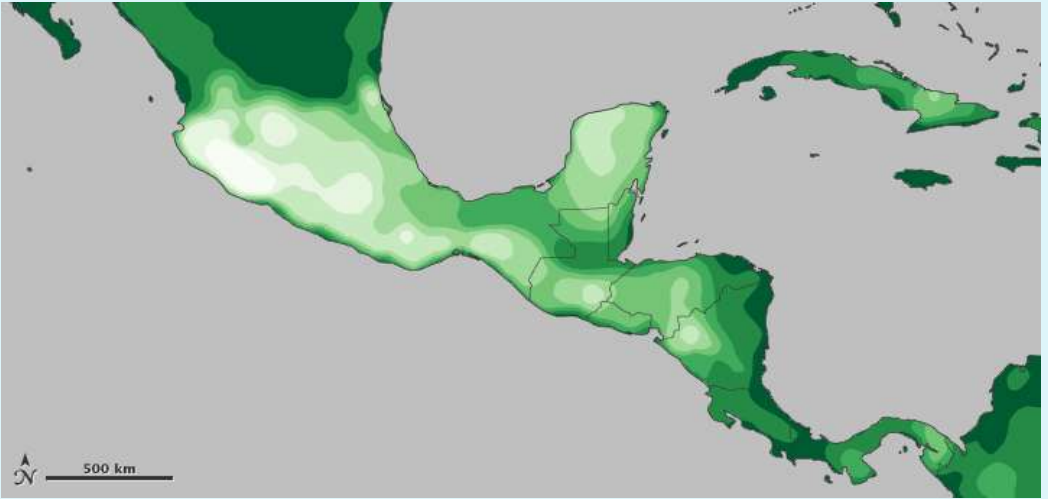


■ China, Shang Dynasty

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



■ Meso-America, Olmec

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Each of these areas simultaneously developed into individual and unique societies...which is pretty amazing if you think about it.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Just to put this in perspective...



- It would be like someone from Northern Canada and the Australian Outback grew up and developed the same ideas, values, language etc....its pretty much impossible

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Many of these societies developed different kinds of social classes including ruling elites, commoners and slaves.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

- Do we use social classes in the United States???

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?

CEOs, politicians	\$200,000	
	\$100,000	
Professionals	\$72,500	Graduate Degree
	\$50,000	Bachelor's degree
Professional Support & Sales	\$32,000	
	\$25,000	Some college
Clerical, Service & Blue collar	\$20,000	
	\$15,000	
Part time & unemployed	\$7,000	High School

Sources: Thompson & Hickey, Society in Focus, 2005; US Census Bureau Personal Income & education of Individuals 25+, 2005

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- These societies also developed unique cultural traditions including forms of written language...some of which was just symbols

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Many early forms of organized religion were created during these early societies...almost all of which revolved around Nature and some type of Higher Spirit.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- The most important part of Complex Societies is the connection between people

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- As areas and agriculture grew so did the interactions with neighboring cities and cultures...trade formed

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Farmers traded seeds and agriculture tips, while artisans shared ideas on how to sculpt, create clothing and even music.

WHERE DID WE COME FROM?



- Our complex societies today have the same idea as the early human complex societies...we buy, trade and share technologies and products.