

ARCHAIC HOMO SAPIENS

Archaic Homo sapiens is term used to describe hominids viewed as transitions between Homo erectus and modern man. These creatures came on the scene when big browed, jutting jaw hominids were still around. Homo sapien means "Wise Man."

Geologic Age: Variable estimates, ranging between 100,000 to 750,000 years. Most scientists believe modern man originated in Africa between 100,000 and 200,000 years ago. A 260,000-year-old Florisbad skull from South Africa had pronounced browridges but less of than its predecessors and was more like the brow of modern humans.

Size: males: 5 feet 9 inches, 137 pounds; females: 5 feet 2 inches, 112 pounds. *Brain Size, Skull Features:* bony chin and high forehead typical of modern humans but bigger face, weaker chin and a protruding browridge above the eyes. **Body Features:** Basically modern but more ruggedly built.

Discovery Sites: Found in Asia, Europe and Africa but not America and Australia. Most complete skull found in 1960 in Petralona, Greece by Greek villagers. Skull housed in Paleontological Museum, University of Thessaloniki. Good fossils also found in Zambia. [Source: Kenneth Weaver, National Geographic, November 1985]