The Future of Human Evolution

Pleistocene ends 10k ya

Since the end of Pleistocene

Gracilization & Reduction
Culture and biology
What is the Future of Human Evolution?

- Will we lose all our hair and our legs to lack of use?
- Lamarckian ideas

Transition from Homo erectus to Homo sapiens (Gathering & Hunting)
Mesolithic to Neolithic

Urbanization
First cities: 5,000 ya

The major civilizations sprang from Neolithic villages in various parts of the world.

Introduction of Agriculture / Pastoralism

Introduction of Agriculture ca 10,000 YA

Early plant and animal domestication took place in such widely scattered areas as Southwest Asia (A1), Central Africa (A2), China (B1), Southeast Asia (B2), Mesoamerica (C1), South America (C2), and North America (C3).
Challenges to Human Future

Global population growth
Resource depletion
Technological/genetic/medical advances

2 mya: 100,000
300 kya: 1,000,000
25 kya: 3,000,000

Economic & Demographic Challenges

- 2 mya: 100,000
- 300 kya: 1,000,000
- 25 kya: 3,000,000

Stone Tools
Solutions

Family Planning

- Average No. of Children: 4.9 to 2.7
- Global Population Growth: 2.2% to 1.3%

Problems/Successes

Population density map of the world in 1994

Observe the high densities in India, China, the Nile river delta, Southern Japan, Western Europe, the Indonesian island of Java, Central America, and the United States.
7 Billion+ People!
- People living longer
- 34% less than 15 yrs.
- 1.8% annual growth rate

Population Growth Rate

Environmental Challenges
- Water
- Air
- Eat Insects!