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Anthropology short notes

Homo erectus

UPSC Civil Services (Main) Examination · Anthropology GS 1 · Anthropology GS 1 (Paper I)

(b) Homo erectus: Africa (Paranthropus), Europe (Homo erectus heidelbergensis), Asia (Homo erectus javanicus, Homo erectus pekinensis).

Short notes by official syllabus heading.

Revision notes for the Anthropology optional. Confirm thinkers and examples against standard texts and recent papers.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/homo-erectus/>

Homo Erectus**Definition**

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

Example / case study

1□ Delayed eruption or loss of wisdom teeth. 2□ Decline in the average age of menstruation. 3□ Rise of antibiotic/drug resistance in bacteria. 4□ Peppered moth (industrial melanism).

Definition

Indigenous people → Original inhabitants before colonisation; politically weak, in reservations.

Example / case study

Naga identity - multiple tribes unified by colonial rule + Christianity. Indian caste system vs African lineage system Studies human evolution from early hominins to modern humans.

Thinkers

Scholar: Clifford Geertz (Old Societies and New States, 1963).

Definition

Scholars: Dipankar Gupta, Ranajit Guha

Definition

Homo sapiens → "Homo" is the genus, "sapiens" is the species.

Example / case study

Herbert Risley: Racial theory of caste; The People of India. Thurston: Castes & Tribes of Southern India. Beginning: Institutionalisation of anthropology (Dept. of Anthropology, Calcutta University - 1920). Nature: Empirical fieldwork, study of social institutions.

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