1 Man the Hunter/Woman the Gatherer
   • Archaeological/anthropological evidence suggests early humans initially scavengers and foragers like our simian ancestors
     • meat provided valuable source of protein in diet otherwise low in amino acids
     • ability to hunt game evolved with cooperative social skills and weaponry, especially fire.

Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinction
   • 1.8 MYA - 10,000 YBP: 20 cycles of cooling and warming
     • Of more than 150 genera of megafauna (> 44 kg) present in late Pleistocene 50,000 years ago, at least 97 extinct by 10,000
     • large herbivores (mammoths, mastodons, ground sloths, cave bears, woolly rhinoceros, horses, dire wolves saber-tooth cats) all extirpated from N. America

4

   • South America extinction of large mammals, incl. armadillos, glyptodonts, llama- and camelids, also coincided with human migration
   • Australia: 55 species of megafauna lost within 10,000 years of human arrival: every land animal, reptile and bird in weighing more than 220 pounds

Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinction – CAUSES?
1 Anthropogenic Cause
   • Intense hunting pressure
   • Long-term habitat alteration (fire)
   • Time-line correspondence with extinctions
   • Keystone species

2 Climate Change?
   • Climate induced extinction of many species before humans present
   • Broad die-off recorded across continents
Historical Extinctions

The Age of Humans

Stone Age (2 MYA – 6000 YA)
- packs, extended families, clans or tribes
- scavengers, hunters, gatherers
- sticks, bone, stones and twine for tools.
- Fire for altering landscape, security, warmth and cooking

Rise of Agriculture (12,000–10,000 YA)
- Nile Valley, Western Asia, Iran, Anatolia (Turkey), northern Syria, Jordan River valley.
- climate change and agriculture.
- 12,000 YA, humans widespread
- Fertile Crescent
- sedentary life
- 8000 YA: S. Mexico 6500 YA: Africa

Urbanization and Disjunction from Nature
- resource surpluses, localized population growth and social stratification
- dependency on nature diminishing (animism and paganism vs androcentrism)
- landscape transformation
- growth of urban centres and increasing human/nature disjunction

Industrial Revolution (250 YA to 40 YA)
- technological advances associated with power attained from natural resources
- increase in urbanization, transfer of human labour from farm to city
- Increased specialization, synthetics, advancement of economic theories, etc.
- “Modern Age” vs Romantics (Thoreau)
- Start of “modern” ecological based conservation ethics (Aldo Leopold)

Information Age (40 YA to present)
- Industrial/technological maturity, resource exploitation increase
• still dependent on non-renewables
• Collective realization of resource limitations
• Exponential increase in natural landscape transformation and species loss