



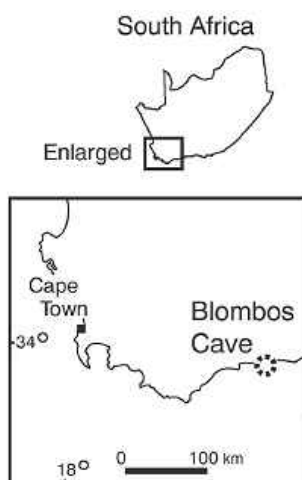
Update on 70,000-Year-Old Human Artifacts from Blombos Cave, South Africa

© 2002 by Linda Moulton Howe



View of Indian Ocean and west of Blombos Cave entrance where yellow arrow points.
Photograph courtesy National Science Foundation.

Earthfiles, news category.



Blombos Cave is 200 miles east of Cape Town, South Africa
on a hillside overlooking the Indian Ocean.

January 24, 2002 Blombos Cave, South Africa - On December 8, 2001, I first reported about the new archaeological evidence that "modern humans" lived in Blombos Cave, South Africa 70,000 years ago. (See: **Earthfiles** 12/8/01) This month the journal *Science* published a report by the lead anthropologist and discoverer, Christopher Henshilwood, Ph.D., Adjunct Professor of Anthropology at the State University of New York, Stony Brook, and the Iziko South African Museum in Cape Town.

One of the remarkable finds, in addition to finely carved bone tools, are pieces of red ochre stone etched with X's. Some of the X's are placed between parallel lines, all of which suggest intelligent design.



Engraved 70,000-year-old ochre stone from Blombos Cave, South Africa. Was it art?
Counting?

Photograph courtesy National Science Foundation.



Professor Christopher Henshilwood holds one of the carved ochre stones to show its size, about four inches long, two inches wide and an inch deep.
Photograph courtesy National Science Foundation.

Were the red ochre stones carved as art? To count something? Or other communication? "They symbolize something that clearly had meaning to the people who made them," answers Dr. Henshilwood. Whatever provoked those South African minds 70,000 years ago, there was also a large population of Neanderthals living in Europe and Asia at the same time. The physical evidence about them indicates those ancient, thick-browed beings used tools, buried their dead with ritual and had a language. Then suddenly about 40,000 years ago there was a dramatic and still unexplained change in the evolution of humanoids. Neanderthals died out and Cro-Magnon Homo sapiens sapiens rose up allegedly from Africa and took over the earth.

The ochre and fine bone artifacts in Blombos Cave do not answer how that happened, but show that modern human behavior was already in evidence in South Africa seventy thousand years ago.



Blombos Cave entrance 200 miles east of Cape Town, South Africa.
Photograph courtesy National Science Foundation.

More Information:

See: Blombos Cave news report and other bone and ochre images at **Earthfiles** 12/8/01.

Websites:

<http://www.nsf.gov/od/lpa/news/02/pr0202images.htm>

<http://clasdean.la.asu.edu/news/images/bone>

Credits

Copyright © 1999 - 2009 by Linda Moulton Howe.
All Rights Reserved.
www.earthfiles.com
earthfiles@earthfiles.com

Republication and dissemination of the contents of this screen or any part of this website are expressly prohibited without prior Earthfiles.com written consent.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#)
[Refund Policy](#)

Copyright © 1999 - 2009, Earthfiles.com / DigitalEyeCandy.ca
All rights reserved.