

How did humanity begin?

- From Mesopotamia:
 - Man created from blood & bone of *Marduk*
 - Man = laborers for Gods
- From Egypt:
 - *Ra* named all things on earth, which grew when named
 - Created man last
 - *Ra* descended onto Earth & ruled as 1st pharaoh
- From China:
 - *Nu Gua* fashioned man from mud
 - Taught men & women how to procreate
 - Man = her companions
- From Greece:
 - Zeus & gods created man to amuse them as they watched from Mt. Olympus
- From Book of Genesis:
 - God created man to subdue Earth & rule over it in his name

Or

- From Charles Darwin:
 - Humans evolved over 100s of 1000s of yrs from more primitive ancestors.

Which is true?

Scientific view:

- Humanity = blip on global timeline
- First *hominids* = 3-4 million yrs ago
- Succeeded by *Homo Erectus* “handy man”
- Thinking humans” – *Homo sapiens*
 - Appeared 75-40,000 yrs ago
 - Created culture
 - Culture allowed for “progress”
 - Stone Age to Bronze Age

- Bronze Age Centers of Civilizations

- Mesopotamian = Sumer; Babylonia; Assyria
- Nile River Valley = Egypt
- Near East = Hittites
- Indus River Valley = Indus culture
- Yellow River Valley = Shang Dynasty

- Common traits

- Developed in river valleys
- Monarchies / theocracies
- Major urban centers
- Agrarian economies
- Development of pictographic writing
- Polytheistic religions
- Few individual rights
- Patriarchic societies
- Slavery