

But some artifacts have been found. Several caves with wall paintings were discovered around the second largest lake in the world, Lake Victoria. The wall paintings are several thousand years old and show scenes of animals and hunters. In addition, a circular castle surrounded by a great stone wall with a diameter of 200 meters was
5 discovered. Who knows what else lies in the dense forests?

According to the theory that the origin of the human race lies in East Africa, we can also infer that the first humans in Africa must have been very close to present-day blacks with dark skin and tightly curled hair. Through the process of spreading all over the world, the color of their skin and hair as well as their body shape has
10 changed. They adapted themselves to the climates of the places they chose to settle.

Skin color is determined by the amount of the pigment melanin. Melanin controls the amount of ultraviolet rays the body absorbs. In tropical areas, the more melanin people have in their skin, the more protection they have from the sun's strong rays. That is why Negroids (dark-skinned people) were able to survive in tropical zones.
15 Moving north, there are fewer ultraviolet rays and no need for a high melanin content in the skin. Therefore, it is better to have fair skin in the Northern areas. Yellow-skinned races (Mongoloids) are found in areas with a rather mild climate, between the tropical zone and the north. People living further north on the European continent have less melanin, resulting in more Caucasians with fair skin and blonde hair.

It seems that in ancient times, when the human race spread all over the world, there was no prejudice against Negroids. Then, how and when did racial prejudice start? Some think it started after the Great Powers of Europe entered the era of the great voyages and started managing colonies. Full-scale prejudice became apparent from the 16th century when Europeans captured people along the African shore just like
20 animals and sold them on other continents. It is our goal to put an end to prejudice based on skin color in the 21st century.

[Notes]

prairie 大草原 **gnu** [nu:, nju:] ヌー, ウシカモシカ **hyena** [haif:nə] ハイエナ. hyaenaとも書く. **Tanzania** [tænzəni:ə] タンザニア **volcano** 火山. 複数形はvolcanoes **Lake Victoria** ビクトリア湖. タンザニア, ウガンダ, ケニアにまたがる世界第2位の湖. **emit** 噴き出す **fossil** 化石 **pithecanthropus** [piθikænθrəpəs] ピテカントロプス. 絶滅した化石人類の一属 **upper jaw** 上あごの骨 **the Olduvai Gorge** オルドヴァイ峡谷. タンザニアにある峡谷で, 前期旧石器時代の遺跡が発見された. **cerebral capacity** 大脳 (cerebrum) の容積 **zinzanthropus** ジンジャントロプス. 東アフリカで発見された旧石器時代前期の化石人類. **artifact** 人工物 **abun-**