

How did the Climate become cyclical?

Ans: Around 2.6 million years ago
The climate became cyclical because
huge areas of the world were covered
with ice sheets.

Define the term "Golden Era".

Ans: Due to evolution of human
the earth's climate has changed
considerably. 3 million years ago
the world was much warmer than
now.

Describe various stages in human
the development of human species.

Ans: Four key stages took place
in human evolution. First
the evolution of homo with its
large brain and capacity to make
stone tools. Next the homo erect
migration out of Africa into
Eurasia and finally the appearance
of modern human.

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1

ecing together the story of human evolution is no easy task. The anthropologist Richard Leaky has identified four key steps in our evolution from the earliest hominid to modern humans. First, the occurrence of binedilism between 10 and 4 million years ago. Then the evolution of Homo, with its large brain and capacity to make stone tools -- the earliest examples of which are 2.5 million years old. Next, the evolution of Hemo erects almost 2 million years ago, followed by its migration out of Africa into Eurasia. And finally the appearance of modern human less than 150000 years ago."

through the 10 million years of human evolution, the Earth's climate has changed considerably. During the period that Michael Sarrnthies of Kie has the "Golden Era" -- up to 3 million years ago -- the world was much warmer than it is now. Then conditions started to deteriorate, and there was a gradual buildup of ice at the poles. Around 2.6 million years ago the climate became cyclical: ice ages characterized by huge ice sheets covering much of North American and northern Europe were followed by inter-glacial, when conditions were comparable to those we see today. Elizabeth Vrba of Yale University, one of the most vigorous

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proponents of the idea of punctuated equilibrium, has shown that this change in the world's climate 2.6 million years ago had sudden and dramatic effects in Africa. A predominantly warm and moist climate was transformed into one which was colder and more arid." (Mark Maslim)

➤ **Questions**

1. Give meanings of the underlined words.
2. How did the climate become cyclical?
3. Define the term "Golden Era".
4. Describe the various stages in the development of the human species.

Exercise 2