

The Savanna Hypothesis

Note 3

(see: Dutton- The Art Instinct p19)

From the present back to the ancient Greeks is about 100 generations.
Back to the first cities and beginning of agriculture is 500 generations.
The Pleistocene where we acquired our tastes, mental features,
emotional dispositions, and personality traits, is 100,000 generations
(and possibly more than 200,000 generations)..

- 1. Open spaces** with low grasses, thickets and groups of trees.
Small hillocks for vantage points and orientation.
Rocks and hiding places where one can see but not be seen.
(Typical of slower predators hunting faster game)
Trees with low branches and medium canopies, suitable for climbing.
Scenes with moderate degree of complexity not deserts or jungles.
(See calendars and design of golf courses for modern examples)
- 2. Presence of water.**
A riverbank, a pool, a seascape in the distance.
- 3. An opening to view of the horizon.**
Pathways or roads leading away - escape routes.
Areas which invite exploration and have some sense of mystery
(Possible better vegetation or animal habitat or safer habitat).
View from edge of open space rather than from the center.
- 4. Evidence of animal and bird life.**
Signs of human habitation
Men have more interest in animal signs.
- 5. Verdant greenery** with flowering and fruiting plants.
Green savanna is preferred to dry season.
Women have a greater interest in vegetation.