

Race is a term used for large group of people with some basic inherited physical characteristics in common, e.g., skin, colour, hair, facial features and head shape etc.

According to Paul, "A race is a large division of human beings distinguished from others by relatively obvious physical characteristics presumed to be biologically inherited and remaining relatively constant through numerous generations."

In the word of Hoebel, "In a race one finds some common traits which continue through many generations and they vary very little, just as all Negroes are dark-skinned."

Basis of Racial Classification:

Stature, shape of head, blood type, skin colour, form and texture of hair, eye fold etc. are some of the physical traits on the basis of which human population (Race) have been distinguished.

(A) Colour of skin:- Colour is the most striking superficial characteristics of human divisions. Three colours are most universally accepted by anthropologists and ethnologists.

Cuvier divided the human groups into three races according to colour of skin.

- (i) Caucasian (white colour)
- (ii) Mongoloid (yellow colour)
- (iii) Negro (black colour)

(B) Colour and Texture of Hair:

Hair's structure and arrangement is a better indication of race than its tint. For most races of the world, the colour of the hair is dark, although it varies through black, dark-brown, reddish brown, light brown, blonde, golden, and red.

(C) Shape of the head has been considered another important factor to distinguish between racial stocks.

(D) Stature: Stature is by no means a general criterion of race and it would not, for instance, be difficult to choose groups of Englishmen, Kafirs and North-American Indian, whose mean height should hardly differ.

(E) Blood groups: Blood groups are referred to as A, B, AB, and O types. One can find some pattern in regional distribution of population of different blood groups.

(F) Nasal Index: Nasal Index is one of the best criterion for racial distinction. The nasal index is the relation of the breadth of the nose, to its height.

Main races of the world:

Cuvier has divided the human groups into three races:

- ① Caucasoid
- ② Mongoloid
- ③ Negro

T. Huxley classified the human stock into five races:-

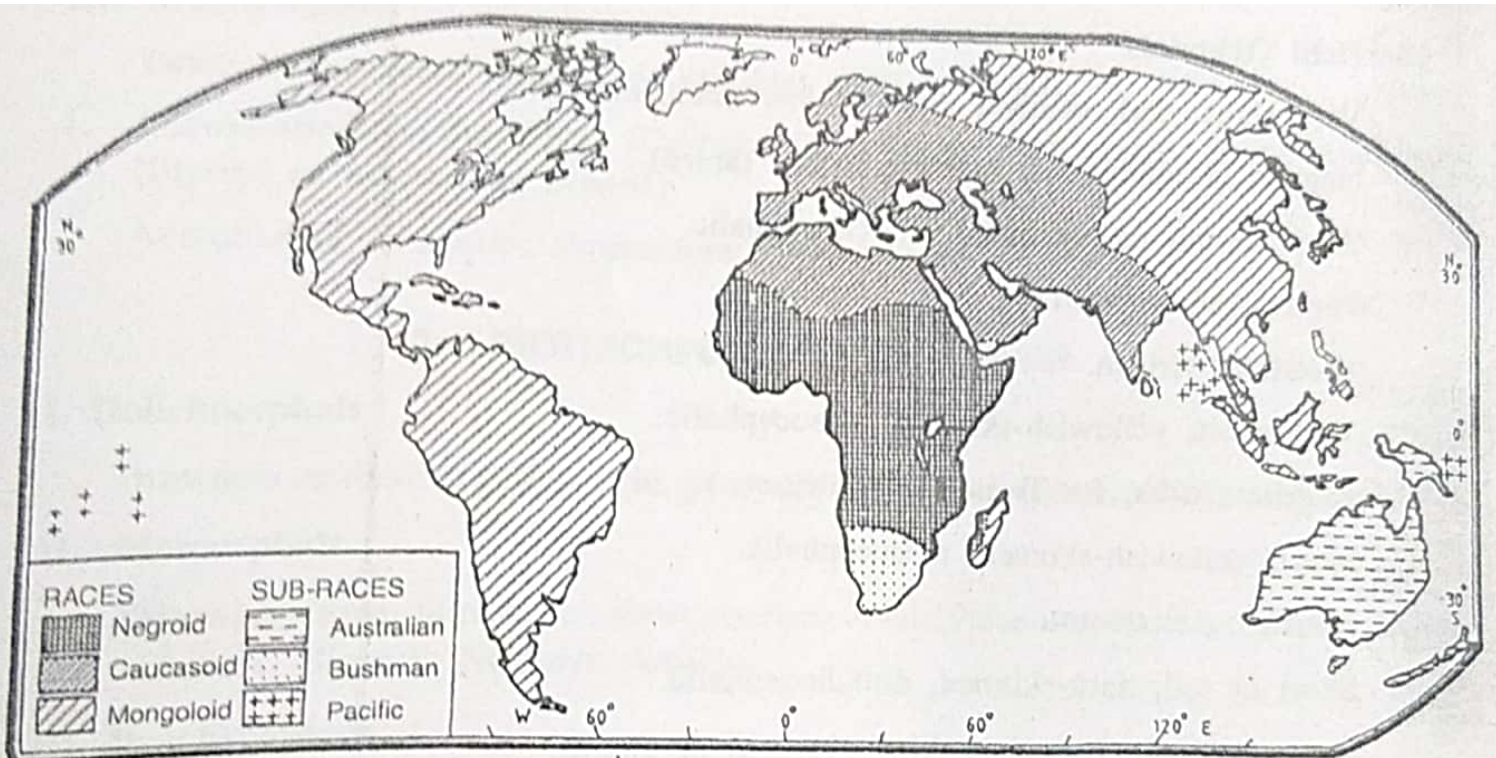
- ① Australoid, ② Negroid, ③ Mongloid,
- ④ Xanthochroic, ⑤ Melanochroic races,

① The Australoid: - This type is represented by the natives of Australia and some south Indian tribes. Physically they have chocolate brown skin, dark brown, or black eye, black hair, narrow head form, brow ridges strongly developed, projecting jaw, etc.

② Negroid: These people are mostly confined to the deserts of Sahara, Madagascar, and Cape districts of South-Africa. They are best represented by Negroes of Africa.

Negroid are divided into two sub-division:-

- (i) Bushman of Kalahari
- (ii) The Negritos of Andaman islands, the peninsular Malacca, the Philippines etc.



③ The Mongoloid type: These people are short

statured, with black eyes, hair texture coarse, hair from straight, skin colour varies from yellowish to brown, with flat nose and ~~face~~ face and a great development of a typical Mongoloid fold of the eye.

④ Xanthochroic or Fair albini: They are tall in stature, with almost colourless skin, blue or grey eyes, hair colour straw to chestnut. They are mostly confined to north Europe, north Africa, and eastwards in India.

⑤ Melanochroic: They are generally short in stature,

brownish to olive in skin colour, and the hair as well as eyes are dark coloured. They inhabit mostly in the southern Europe and Arabia.

Human Races According to Carrier :-

① Caucasoids: This set of human racial group is the one with fair skin and eyes, light and wavy hair, prominent and narrow nose, thin lips, and abundant body hair.

② Mongoloids: This set of human racial group is one with light yellow to brown skin colour, brown eyes, straight and coarse black hair, flat

face and nose, broad head, epicanthic eye fold, etc.

(iii) Negroids: set of human racial group is one with dark black skin, black wooly hair, dark eyes, broad and flat nose, thick and arched lips, long head etc.