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Cranial comparisons of Asians and Africans The African shape of the eye orbits, as viewed from the front, tends to be more rectangular shaped, while the Asians’ are more circular.
Nasal sill: Africans tend to lack a sharp angulation dividing the nasal floor from the anterior surface of the maxilla, while the Asians angulation tends to be intermediate.
Nasal bridge: Africans tend to be having an arching, ” Quonset hut” shape, as the Asians tend to have low nasal bones with a slight angulation.
Subnasal prognathism: Africans tend to have maxillae that project more anteriorly (prognathic) below the nose while the Asians tend to have less projecting.
Zygomatic form: Asians have anteriorly projecting cheekbones. The border of the frontal process (lateral to the orbit) faces forward. While in Africans, these face more laterally and the zygomatic recedes more posteriorly.
The nasal index is 100 times the width of the nasal cavity divided by its breadth. Africans have a nasal cavity which is short and wide, while the one in the Asians is long and narrow. The Africans have dramatic nasal spines. The interior nasal spine is a small bone extending outwards from the middle of the base of the nasal cavity, and it supports the nose that protrudes. The nasal spine is less in Asians.
Besides the nasal spine, there is difference in the base of the front of the nasal cavity between the two races. Referring to the arrows, Asians have the top of the ridge rounded, but the Africans have no ridge.
Compare to Asian skull, the African skull is narrower. The bones of the skull are denser and thicker. The eye sockets are rounder and larger with the distance between them greater.
Work cited
Larsen, Clark S, and Robert M. Matter. Human Origins: The Fossil Record. Prospect Heights, Ill: Waveland Press, 1985. Print.