

In Search of Human Origins, Episode 2

This video helps “flesh out the bones” of some well documented hominid species, giving you a glimpse into early hominid lifeways and the major skeletal and behavioral differences between the hominids from the genus *Australopithecus* and the genus *Homo*. While watching this episode, hosted by paleoanthropologist Don Johanson, take notes on the similarities and differences between *Australopithecus afarensis*, *Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus*.

Australopithecus afarensis

Homo habilis

Homo erectus

Habitat/Environmental Niche (Forest, Savanna, Mixed)

Body Size/Sexual Dimorphism

Diet

Behavior: Forager, Scavenger or Hunter? and evidence to support

Behavior: Tool Use

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Questions for discussion:

1. What are the main differences between the australopithecines and the genus Homo hominids in terms of their engagement with and presence on the landscape?
2. What are some of the skills needed to be a successful scavenger?
3. Why do meat and bone marrow become such an important addition to the diet during the evolution of the genus Homo hominids?

Your notes: