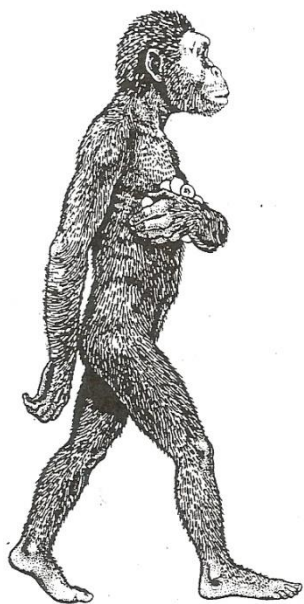


Who Am I?



Hominid Species #1

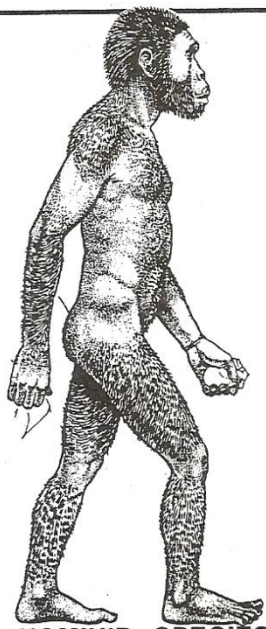
My genus name means “southern ape” despite the fact that I’m not southern nor an ape. My species name comes from the first site where members of my species were found---in Ethiopia’s northern regions. My brain was slightly bigger than that of a modern chimpanzee & some say that I look like a chimp with my prognathic face, low, flat forehead, low-vaulted braincase, a flat nose, no chin, and jutting jaws. And I, like other males, have a small but noticeable sagittal crest & slightly projecting canines in my upper jaw. Also like chimps, my arms are longer relative to my legs, and I have slightly curved finger & toe bones, a primitive feature related to my arboreal heritage. Also, we males are quite a bit bigger than females.

Although I don’t use stone tools, I did have tool making & using capabilities similar to modern chimps. I ate fruit most of the time, although I sometimes enjoyed a side dish of insects, along with a salad. I lived so long ago that until recently paleoanthropologists thought I was the first hominid. But I wasn’t; there are at least four or five species before me. Were they my ancestors? I’m not saying---at least not right now.

Many paleoanthropologists also say that I and my relatives evolved into many different species of hominids, including the first members of the genus *Homo*. And while I’d like to tell you that we are your direct ancestors, it’s possible that another hominid who lives across the valley from me may be your direct ancestor.

Who am I? _____

(Hint: My sister’s name comes from a song).



Hominid Species #2

I’m the first hominid to make stone tools as well as scavenge the meat from the kills of predators. I share my homeland with several other hominid species, however, I’m by far the “brainiest.” While they have a brain volume hardly larger than a half bottle of wine, my brain volume is almost equal to two thirds of a bottle. And if you look closely at the endocast of my brain, you’ll see a bulge precisely where you later folks have your language center. Can I speak to you? I’m not talking---you’ll just have to wonder.

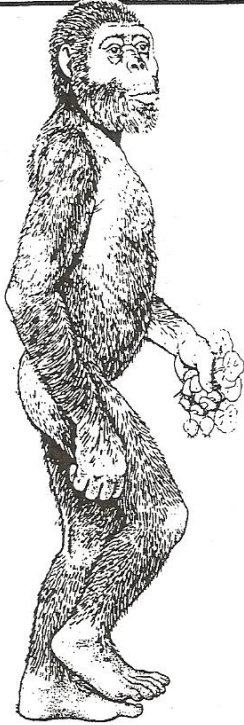
I live in East Africa, especially in & around Olduvai Gorge, but some of my kind have migrated southward to south Africa. My face is somewhat projecting and my brow ridge is noticeable, but I don’t have a sagittal crest and I look less like an ape than they do. However, I must confess that I have slightly longer arms and shorter legs than you moderns, so I do “look” a bit ape-ish, but I’m still full human.

I’m quite “handy” if you need a job done, particularly if you need a bone smashed open or a piece of meat cut from a bone, or perhaps some scraping done. Still, I’m no hunter. I just know how to scavenge really well to get the meat I need to fuel my growing brain.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot. Eventually, I’ll evolve into a species some members of which will become the first hominids to emigrate out of Africa.

Who am I? _____

(Hint: I was discovered by Louis Leakey himself!)



Part of my name means southern ape, but I don't live in the south. Rather, I live near beautiful Olduvai Gorge in East Africa. When people first see a picture of me they think that I'm a really big guy, but I'm not. Or rather, I should say my body isn't (I'm only 5 ft. tall and weigh about 145 lbs.). But what is big are a number of physical features of my skull, most of which were related to my diet.

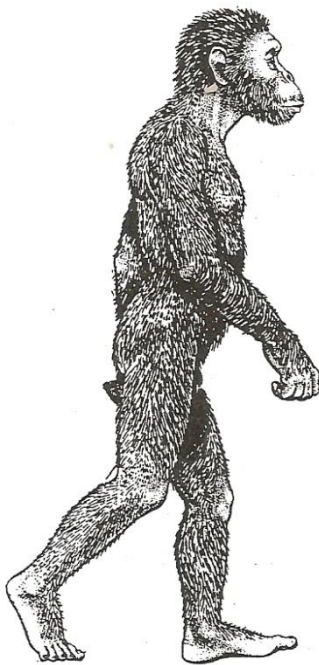
My face is very wide and has a somewhat "dished" appearance. My skull is quite large (although it houses a very small brain, about one third the size of your brain) and I have a low forehead with very prominent brow ridges and a sagittal crest, and some folks have suggested that I displayed extreme facial prognathism. My immense molars are 4-5 times larger than yours and my premolars look very much like molars. Thus, many of my friends called me "Nutcracker Man."

Like my cousin species in south Africa, I'm a vegetarian (my motto: *love animals don't eat them*). I just love nuts, seeds, and when the ground is soft, you can find me pulling up all kinds of roots. In fact, even when the ground is dry and hard, I still like to dig for roots, but it's a lot harder to get them out of the ground then. But, I'm smart, and I've figured out a way to get them.

Who am I? _____

(Hint: The Leakeys thought I might be the tool making hominid they were searching for, but my dental features gave me away---I used my teeth as tools & so I didn't make any stone tools.)

Hominid Species #3



My genus – species name means "southern ape of Africa" although I'm certainly NOT an ape but a genuine habitual, upright biped. Then why the "southern ape" name? It's a reflection of the limited understanding of human evolution you folks had when the good "doctor of the limestone quarries" and I were first introduced back in the 1900's. He took one look at my scoop-shaped facial profile, my very large back teeth, the way my lower face jutted forward, the somewhat prominent brow ridges and the small brain (well, small compared to yours), and said I resembled an ape. But when he examined the physical evidence relating to my locomotive pattern, he realized that I was a biped, but he still called me an "ape."

Like my ancestors, I don't use stone tools, but I can wield a mean stick and I am certainly as capable in the tool use category as modern apes. In fact, because I move around a lot in search of food, sometimes the only way I can get enough to eat is by using naturally occurring objects as tools.

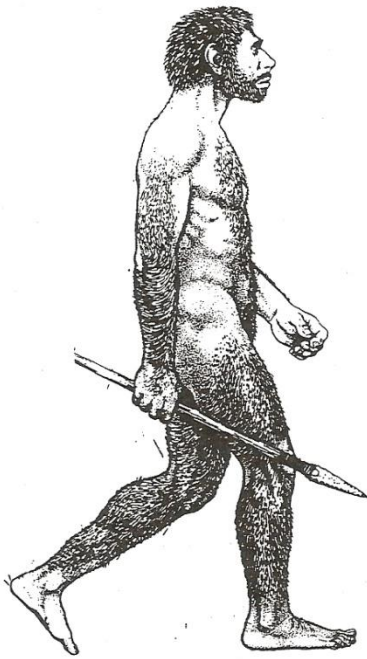
My favorite foods are fruits, but I never pass up the opportunity to snack on a variety of insects and even a fresh salad.

Oh yes, lots of folks didn't want to accept me as a human ancestor thanks to some guy they called "Piltdown Man" that was discovered in England. Luckily, Piltdown was revealed as a hoax and when a Swedish guy by the name of Robert Broom discovered adult versions of my kind, scientists finally accepted me into the human family tree.

Who am I? _____

(Hint: I was the first australopithecine discovered but not the oldest)

Hominid Species #4



Great World Maker - it is very cold! The world is in the grip of one of the worst phases of the Ice Age. Most of the year the only foods are mammoths, mastodons, woolly rhinos and cave bears. But, that's okay, as I'm the best hunter that's lived (at least until now).

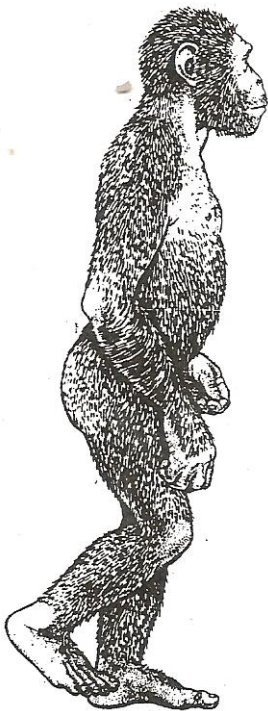
Natural selection has shaped my body so I can endure very cold climates. I have a large, long head, with a bigger brain inside a thicker skull than you moderns. I also have heavy brow ridges and a sloping forehead and there's a distinctive bun-shaped swelling at the back of my skull. My broad face projects forward and I have no chin. Also, my chest is very barrel-shaped and my arms and legs are shorter than yours. All of these features make me the best cold-adapted hominid ever.

My culture enhances my adaptation to the cold. I use fire to heat my homes (I have a summer tent-like house and a winter time cave), cook my food, light up the night, and sometimes aid my hunting. I also make fairly good animal hide coverings as clothes to keep me warm..

I'm the first hominid to bury my dead, sometimes with grave offerings, which you moderns have interpreted as meaning I and my people have "religion."

Who am I? _____
(Hint: My remains were found in the Neander Valley of Germany)

Hominid Species #5



My genus name also means "southern ape," but I'm no more an ape than you are. Like my other "southern cousins," my name reflects the time and place when I first met you moderns. Well, that's only partially true. I must admit that I do have some ape-like qualities in the external structure of my face and skull: a prominent sagittal crest, a dished facial appearance and wide, flaring cheeks. And while that makes me look somewhat like an ape, I have the heart, soul and foramen magnum of a true hominid.

Because I prefer to love animals, not eat them, I'm a vegetarian (which promotes good health and regular bowel movements). I subsist primarily on seeds, nuts, roots, and fruits. Like my ancestors, I don't make stone tools, but I have tool making and using capabilities similar to modern apes. In fact, don't you think it's reasonable to assume that I'd have use some form of tools to acquire roots, especially when the ground is too hard to dig using my hands and fingers?

I wish I could tell you that I'm your ancestor, but unfortunately, I and my East African buddy, "Nutcracker Man," (with whom I'm usually associated) will eventually become extinct, meaning, our features are not seen in any later hominids that came after us.

Who am I? _____
(Hint: Robert Broom didn't expect to find me---he was searching for another hominid species to help out his buddy Raymond Dart)

Hominid Species #6



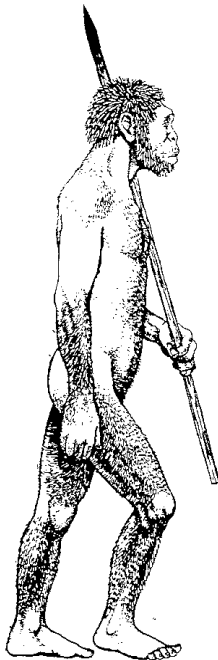
HOMINID SPECIES #7

Unlike the hominids who've come before me, I have a very large cranial capacity, no overhanging brow ridges, and I'm particularly proud of my high, vertical forehead and prominent chin. Also, compared to those who lived before me, I make a far wider and more finely crafted range of knives, scrapers, saws, points and other stone implements. I also know how to make tools from bone, antler, wood, even ivory.

And speaking in all modesty, I am the most skillful hunter of big game ever. In fact, just last year while vacationing in the south of France, I helped some of my family stampede an entire herd of wild horses over a cliff-top.

I'm also a fairly good artist. My paintings can be seen in all the best caves and rock shelters. Next week, I'll be the featured artist at the grand opening of Lascaux---a cave in southern France. In addition to the my multi-colored paintings, my clay and stone sculptures and beaded necklaces will also be on exhibit.

Who am I? _____
(Hint: My name means "Wise One." Do you agree?)



HOMINID SPECIES #8

I'm the descendant of the species often called the first toolmakers and while I share some features with them, I'm a changed woman. My brain is one-third larger than theirs, and I'm much taller. In fact, by the time my little brother reaches adult height, he'll be nearly 6 feet tall.

In many ways I resemble a strongly built version of you moderns. However, my skull retains some old-fashioned features: it's long and low, with a bony bump at the back, a low forehead, thick brow ridges, and no chin. Also, due to the shape, you'll often find a ridge of bone at the top of my skull---a very distinct feature among later hominids.

Some members of my species were able to actually hunt game animals (although this occurred rather late in our evolutionary history), rather than simply scavenge the remains from predator kills.

Perhaps my peoples' greatest achievements are in the realm of culture. We are the first hominids to USE fire (although in all honesty, we don't know how to MAKE it), as well as being the first hominids to live in other parts of the world besides Africa.

Who am I? _____
(Hint: I was once called "Java Man" and "Peking Man" because I was first discovered in Southeast Asia and China)

ANSWER KEY FOR HOMINID IDENTIFICATION REVIEW

- Hominid #1 *Australopithecus afarensis*
- Hominid #2 *Homo habilis*
- Hominid #3 *Australopithecus boisei*
- Hominid #4 *Australopithecus africanus*
- Hominid #5 Neanderthal (*Homo neanderthalensis*)
- Hominid #6 *Australopithecus robustus*
- Hominid #7 *Homo sapiens*
- Hominid #8 *Homo erectus*