

Human Evolution

Biology

The main hominin species, and the traits that distinguish them.

Approximate dates and defining features.

Species	When	Feature
Sahelanthropus	~7 mya	Possibly earliest hominin
Australopithecus afarensis	~3.5 mya	Bipedal, small brain — 'Lucy'
Homo habilis	~2.4 mya	First stone tools
Homo erectus	~1.9 mya	Larger brain; left Africa
Homo neanderthalensis	~400 kya	Cold-adapted; interbred with sapiens
Homo sapiens	~300 kya	Africa, then worldwide

Non-African modern humans carry roughly 1–2% Neanderthal DNA, evidence of interbreeding after the migration out of Africa.