

K = Kenyanthropus platyops

“Kenya Man”

Discovered by Meave Leaky and her team in 1998 west of Lake Turkana, Kenya, and described as a new genus dating back to the middle Pliocene, 3.5 MYA.

A = Australopithecus africanus

STS-5 “Mrs. Ples”

The discovery of this skull in 1947 in South Africa of this virtually complete skull gave additional credence to the establishment of early Hominids. Dated at 2.5 MYA.

H = Homo habilis

KNM-ER 1813

Discovered in 1973 by Kamoya Kimeu in Koobi Fora, Kenya. Even though it is very small, it is considered to be an adult and is dated at 1.9 MYA.

E = Homo erectus

“Peking Man”

Discovered in China in the 1920's, this is based on the reconstruction by Sawyer and Tattersall of the American Museum of Natural History. Dated at 400-500,000 YA.
(2 parts)

L = Australopithecus afarensis

“Lucy”

Discovered by Donald Johanson in 1974 in Ethiopia. Lucy, at 3.2 million years old has been considered the first human. This is now being challenged by the discovery of Kenyanthropus described by Leaky.
(2 parts)

TC = Australopithecus africanus

“Taung child”

Discovered in 1924 in Taung, South Africa by M. de Bruyn. Raymond Dart established it as a new genus and species. Dated at 2.3 MYA.
(3 parts)

G = Homo ergaster

“Nariokotome or Turkana boy” KNM-WT 15000

Discovered in 1984 in Nariokotome, Kenya by Richard Leaky this is the first skull dated before 100,000 years that is complete enough to get accurate measurements to determine brain size. Dated at 1.6 MYA.
(2 parts)

B = Paranthropus boisei

The first Australopithecus boisei specimen originally named Zinjanthropus boisei (now Paranthropus), was discovered in 1959 by Mary Leaky at the Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania, Africa. P. boisei skulls have been found in Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Kenya.

N = Homo neanderthalensis

Neanderthal, La Chapelle-aux-Saints

Discovered in 1908 in La Chapelle-aux-Saints, France it was the most complete Neanderthal skull found at the time. Called the “old man” and having much pathology, he lived a long time. Dated at 30,000 YA.
(2 parts)

S = Homo sapiens sapiens

The species to which you and all other living human beings on this planet belong is Homo sapiens. Anatomically, modern humans can generally be characterized by the lighter build of their skeletons compared to earlier humans. Modern humans also have very large brains, which involved the reorganization of the skull into what is thought of as the “modern” appearance – a high vaulted cranium with a flat and near vertical forehead. The supraorbital torus is lost in modern humans, and ridging above the orbits in general is very reduced. The widest part of the skull is high on the skull, as opposed to earlier H. erectus and H. ergaster. The back of the skull lacks the transverse torus of H. erectus and the occipital bun of H. neanderthalensis.