Exploring Human Evolution

Activity Book
COLOUR ME!

Our early fossil ancestors – the australopiths – had relatively long arms, mobile shoulders, and curved fingers that would have been good for climbing.
“Karabo” or Malapa Hominin 1 (MHL) is thought to be 12-13 years old. It was found in 2008 at Malapa, South Africa by 9-year old Matthew Berger, Lee Berger’s son. It was named as a new species, *Australopithecus sediba*, in 2010. It is 2 million years old.

“Taung Child” was about 3 years old. It was discovered by men working in a quarry in 1924 and named as a new species – *Australopithecus africanus* – by Raymond Dart in 1925. It was highly controversial as a human ancestor at the time, but is now considered one of the most important hominin fossils ever discovered. It is 2-3 million years old.

“Turkana Boy” (KNM-WT 15000) was about 8-9 years old. Discovered by Kamoya Kimeu in 1984 in Kenya, it is the most complete *Homo erectus* skeleton ever found. His skeleton is the first evidence of human-like body plan with long legs and short arms. It is about 1.5 million years old.
Olduvai Word Search

Words may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal and forward or backward

BOISEI
CHOPPER
CUTMARKS
HABILIS
HANDAxe
HANDYMAN
HOMO
LEAKEY
LOUIS
MARY
OLDOWAN
OLDUVAI
PLIOCENE
TUFF
ZINJANTHROPUS

C J Z S G O W F P I N S G M R
H D I U H V E Y E A K Q H L I
O H R P O G D S O R J F K R K
P Y S O M I I H A N D Y M A N
P A T R O O W M I U H F F U T
E L Z H B T T M S A N L Q P W
R P W T I U A P B X F K H M I
B J N N C P D I L E A K E Y A
Y P H A F L L E X A D N A H V
L E N J W I O I T F Y H N D U
Z V Z N S O M U O Q Y Y F R D
Q N Q I E A D G I C T C M K L
D K I Z R X A L X S E S H G O
I N Z Y D Z U N O R F N U Z B
U Y Z G E E J A I P T D E H E
Your ancestors in Ethiopia
Meet ‘Ardi’ and ‘Lucy’

“Ardi” (ARA-VP-6/500), short for Ardipithecus ramidus, was discovered in 1994 by a team led by Tim White. Ardi is 4.4 million years old, with a divergent big toe and a pelvis that is said to show adaptations for bipedalism and climbing. This is potentially one of our oldest hominin ancestors.

“Lucy” (A.L. 288-1) was discovered in 1974 by Don Johanson. She is belongs to the species Australopithecus afarensis and was the most compete early fossil human discovered at the time. She was named after the Beatles song, “Lucy in the sky with diamonds” that was playing at the camp after her discovery. Lucy is 3.2 million years old.

What is preserved
My skeleton
What I might have looked like
What is preserved
My skeleton
What do you think Lucy would have looked like? Draw it!
COLOUR ME!

Neandertals (*Homo neanderthalensis*) lived from roughly 400,000 to 30,000 years ago. They had, on average, bigger brains than we do, and used very sophisticated tools, were very skilled hunters, controlled fire and even created cave art. The Neandertal genome shows that humans share up to 4% of our DNA with Neandertals!
Match the food to your teeth

You have four different types of teeth in your mouth: incisors, canines, premolars and molars. The variation in their shape make each of them better at processing different types of foods. Thinking about how YOU first bite into different foods, can you match the different foods to the teeth that are best for biting them?

The mandible (lower jaw) of Homo naledi DH1. Homo naledi was first discovered in the Dinaledi Chamber of the Rising Star Cave System, South Africa in 2013. Two cavers, Steve Tucker and Rick Hunter, were exploring the depths of the cave and noticed the human-like bones on the cave floor. Homo naledi is approximately 250,000 years old.
Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. To help, each of these words is found elsewhere in the book and on this page (plus a few extras!).

Take the letters that appear in boxes and unscramble them for the final message.

NIMNIOH
CUYL
HZNEEMICPA
CEHDIUPIRATS
DILDAENI
RETNAANELD
DIALOVU
SISLOF
RAMLO
MURFE
TANRUKA
RIAROOCABDN
KOARAB
LADWOON

Final message:
We share a skeleton

Fill in the blanks for *Australopithecus* and chimpanzee

**Australopithecus**

- skull
- mandible
- clavicle
- ribs
- vertebrae
- pelvis
- femur
- patella
- fibula
- tibia
- phalanges
- metacarpals

**Chimpanzee**

- skull
- mandible
- clavicle
- ribs
- vertebrae
- pelvis
- femur
- patella
- fibula
- tibia
- phalanges
- metacarpals
Dinaledi Maze

Follow the maze to find the *Homo naledi* fossils in the Rising Star Cave System.
Our cultural evolution

Colour and match the numbers to the timeline below to find out when each of these innovations first evolved!

1. Lomewkian - the first recognisable stone tools
2. Oldowan - the first simple chopper and flake stone tools
3. Acheulean - the first more complex biface hand axes
4. Bone tools were used to dig termite mounds
5. The first spears, that later had stone tips
6. The Levallois technique - a special way of making stone tools
7. The first jewellery? Decorative perforated shells
8. Cave art from Europe to Indonesia
9. Venus figurines in Europe

1: 3.3 million yrs ago
2: 2.6 million yrs ago
3: 1.7 million yrs ago
4: 1.5 million yrs ago
5: 500,000 yrs ago
6: 300,000 yrs ago
7: -80,000 yrs ago
8: 40,000 yrs ago
9: 30,000 yrs ago
The women who helped us understand human evolution

Match the women to their amazing accomplishments!

1. One of the most famous palaeoanthropologists, she discovered the Laetoli footprints and the Zinj skull in Tanzania.

2. An archaeologist who was key in the discovery of some of the earliest evidence of Homo erectus in China.


4. A primatologist who was the first to document chimpanzees at Gombe, Tanzania, using tools in the wild, which changed the way we define “human”.

5. An archaeologist and first woman professor at Cambridge University, she discovered some of the most important human and Neandertal fossils in Israel.

6. In addition to being an excellent anatomist, she challenged the ‘man the hunter’ hypothesis, highlighting the important role that women played as gatherers and inventors in human evolution.

7. A palaeoecologist, she has shown us the importance of understanding the fossilisation process and how different fossil animals can tell us about the environment.

8. A palaeolithic archaeologist and palaeoanthropologist who changed the way we think about the origins and evolution of our own species, Homo sapiens.

[Images of women with numbers matching their descriptions]
Draw your favourite fossil human ancestor
Draw your favourite stone tool