

Our Ancestors



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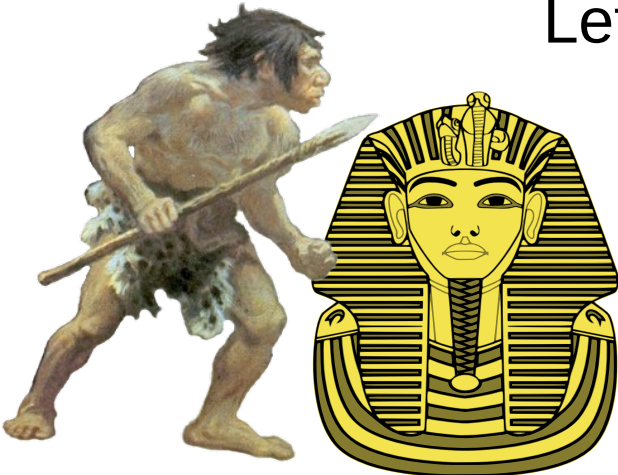
See [Credits page](#) for image sources.



Introduction

We seem to love hearing stories about archaic humans but mostly only Neanderthals and recent Europeans get much press.

Let's look at some older ones.



Homo Erectus:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homo.erectus.adult.female.smithsonian.timevanson.flickr.jpg>

Distribution map:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Carte_hachereaux.jpg?uselang=en

Hand Axe:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bifaz_cordiforme.jpg

Homo Ergaster:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homo_ergaster_reconstruction,_American_Museum_of_Natural_History.jpg

Denisovan:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Dali_Man_Skull,_Replica.jpg

Ben Turpin:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ben_Turpin_\(1869-1940\)_in_a_top_hat.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ben_Turpin_(1869-1940)_in_a_top_hat.jpg)

Credits

The cartoon of the detective with the magnifying glass is me. You can reuse under CC-BY-SA 4.0, the required credit is Julia Clement <https://juliaclement.com/>

Except for the Neanderthal with a spear, the other cartoon characters are from [OpenClipart.org](https://openclipart.org) and are public domain, but crediting them is nice, unfortunately I didn't preserve the links when I downloaded. I will try to do better in future.

The map and photographs of Ben Turpin and early humans plus their tools are from Wikimedia, original photos and required credits are on the relevant pages there.

Neanderthal:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Neanderthal_man_reconstruction,_Natural_History_Museum,_London.jpg

With Spear:

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Neanderthal_\(transparent_background\).png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Neanderthal_(transparent_background).png)

Hand Axe:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bifaz_cordiforme.jpg

Homo Habilis: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Homo_habilis_-_forensic_facial_reconstruction.png (2013 version)

Hand Axe:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Oldowan_tradition_chopper.jpg

Pebble Scraper:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Canto_tallado_1-Guelmim-Es_Semara.jpg

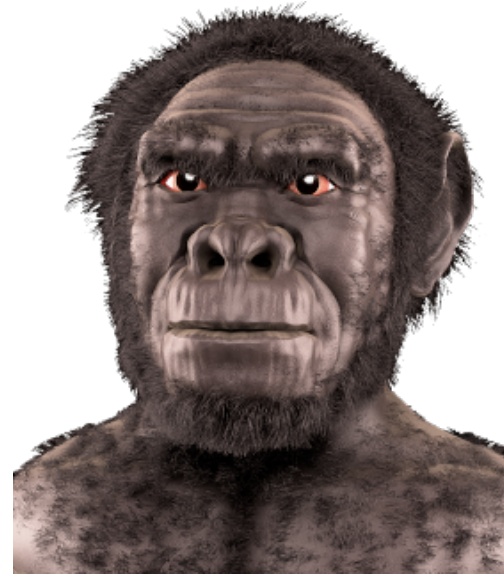
Introduction continued

We'll start with 2 important ancestors.

Homo Habilis
and Homo
Erectus:

Handy man and

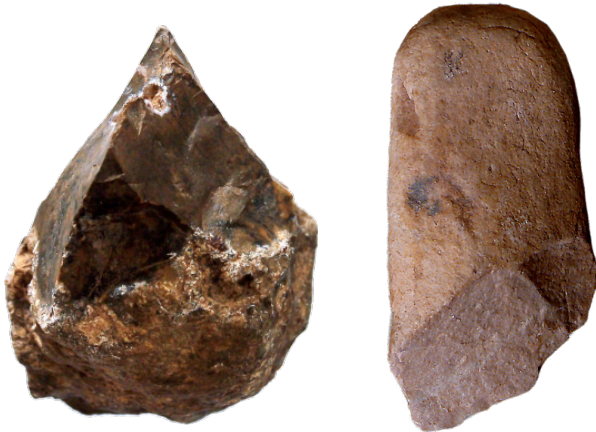
Randy man.



Handy Man



Homo
Habilis
(Handy Man)
was around
about
300,000
years but
had time to
invent
scrapers,
monogamy
and, of
necessity,
the dildo.



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And the winner is



Homo Sapiens
Latin for “Wise man”, but as someone who lived through the latter parts of the 20th and the first quarter of the 21st centuries, I suggest we rename the species “Homo Sultus” .. Foolish Man

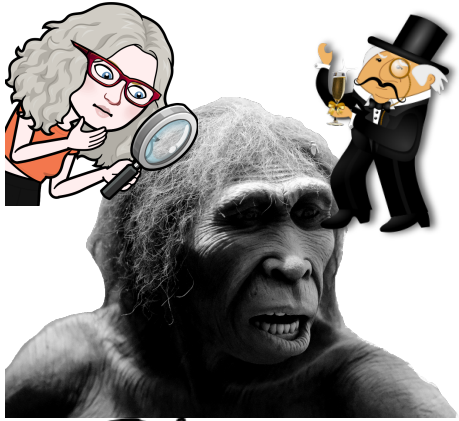
End.

Randy Man



Homo Erectus
(Randy Man) was the longest surviving human species. Population pressures from its devotion to sex caused it to range from England to Korea but also stopped it innovating, making identical hand axes for nearly 2 million years.

Workers



Homo Ergaster (Workers) were a development of erectus who managed to put horniness aside long enough to do a day's work. After a few intermediates they became us. Workers survived into the 21st century when neoliberal politics finally ended them. They may survive in East Asia.



The Also Rans.



Proving that modern humans will mate with anything, we also have DNA from:

Neanderthals.

Our ancestors split from them 500k to 800k years ago yet we have 1-4% Neanderthal DNA.



Denisovans.

Split from Neanderthals 300k to 400k years ago & modern Melanesians have around 5% Denisovan DNA