

Julia's Zine #1 July 2026

Our Ancestors



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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.



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

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

Introduction continued ...



We'll start with 3 important ancestors.

Australopithecus, then 2 early humans.

Homo Habilis and Homo Erectus:

Handy man, and Randy man.

Australopithecus



After our ancestors and the ancestors of Chimpanzees and Bonobos parted ways, they were the first known fully bipedal apes. And probably looked like this.



Had they survived to now they probably would look something like this.



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 & many modern humans have their DNA. Melanesians have around 5% Denisovan DNA.



The also rans

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

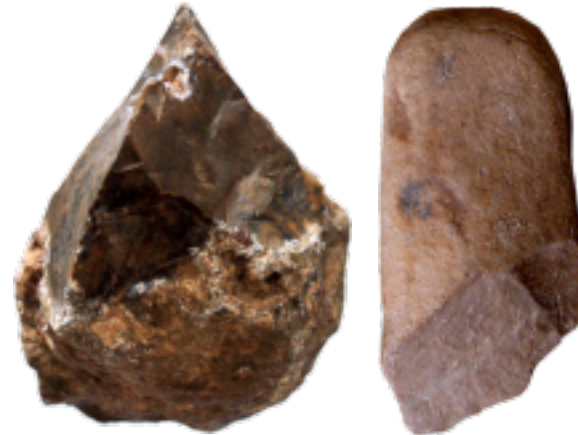
Superarchaics

Early human species who split 2M years ago from the common ancestor of us and Neanderthals (who split into Neanderthals and Denisovans before roughly 370K years ago) then mated with Neanderthals around 700K years ago.

After Denisovans split from Neanderthals they had a second mixing with another Superarchaic group around 220K years ago.

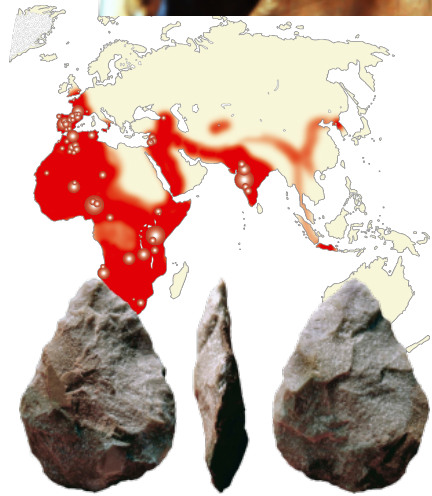
Human females liked them because lacking language they couldn't mansplain.

Handy Man



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

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.