

Skull of oldest-known human ancestor

Palaeontologists have excavated a near-complete skull of an early human ancestor that lived 3.8 million years ago. Until now the only cranial remains of *Australopithecus anamensis* were jaw fragments

Skull found at
Woranso-Mille



6-8 million years ago:
Species that led to humans split from apes, gradually acquiring traits such as bipedal walking, flatter face and increased brain size

Australopithecus anamensis



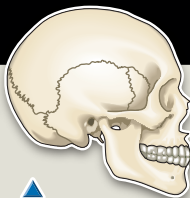
***Australopithecus anamensis*:** First appeared roughly 4.2 million years ago. Brain capacity of $380\text{--}450\text{cm}^3$ is similar to apes



***Homo erectus*:** Lived between about 1.89 million and 143,000 years ago. Brain capacity increases to $600\text{--}800\text{cm}^3$



***Homo neanderthalensis*:** Lived between 400,000 and 40,000 years ago. Brain capacity of $1,200\text{cm}^3$ to $1,750\text{cm}^3$



***Homo sapiens*:** About 300,000 years ago to present. Brain capacity of nearly $1,500\text{cm}^3$. Modern humans now $1,350\text{cm}^3$