

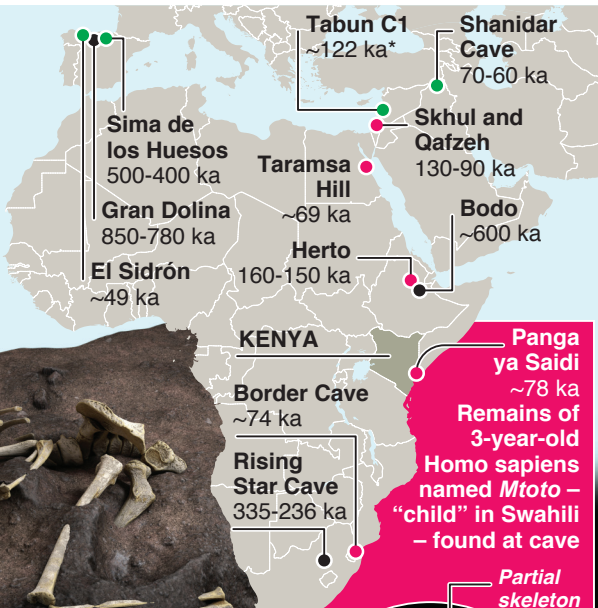
Oldest human burial in Africa

Archaeologists have found remains of a child buried at a cave in Kenya 78,000 years ago, which provide new insights into the origin of mortuary practices on the continent of our species' birth

Burial sites

- Homo sapiens
- Neanderthals
- Other hominins in genus Homo

Evidence of burials of early humans in Africa is scarce, in contrast with Eurasia



EVIDENCE OF INTENTIONAL BURIAL

● Mtoto's flexed body, lying on right side with knees drawn toward chest, testifies to deliberate preparation

● Position of head suggests support – such as pillow – may have been present, indicating some form of funerary rite



● Microscopic analysis shows body was rapidly covered by sediment, scooped up from cave floor, and decomposed in situ

