

# Muddle over human ancestors

Researchers have announced a new species of human ancestor, named *Homo bodoensis*. The hominid lived in Africa around half a million years ago and was the direct ancestor of modern humans

Middle Pleistocene: 774,000 to 129,000 years ago —————> | Holocene —————>

700k

600k

500k

400k

300k

200k

100k



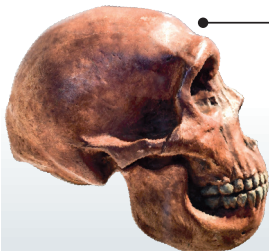
***Homo erectus*:**  
**1.9 million-250,000 years ago.** Longest surviving of all human relatives. *H. erectus* developed stone tools and two-sided handaxes. May have made fire – ash and burnt bone fragments found in South Africa



***Homo heidelbergensis*:**  
**700,000-200,000 years ago**  
First species of *Homo* genus to bury their dead. Previously presumed common ancestor of modern humans, and other human species – Denisovans and Neanderthals



***Homo rhodesiensis*:**  
**400,000-215,000 years ago**  
Also known as Rhodesian Man after discovery in modern Zambia. Until now, *H. bodoensis* fossils have been identified as either *H. rhodesiensis* or *H. heidelbergensis*



***Neanderthals*:** Believed to have descended from *H. erectus* about 500,000-300,000 years ago. Survived until some 28,000 years ago

***Homo sapiens*:** 300,000 years ago-present. Started farming and herding animals just 12,000 years ago

