

Prof. Rex Li's Writings

Category: History

Sub-category:

Code: His 01-004

Title:

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| Human Species Chronology (Updated 5 September 2021) |
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Year Written: 2021

Summary/ Abstract: From Australopithecus (3-7 million years ago) to Homo Sapiens (200,000 years ago), I piece together a few salient features and milestones in this chronology.

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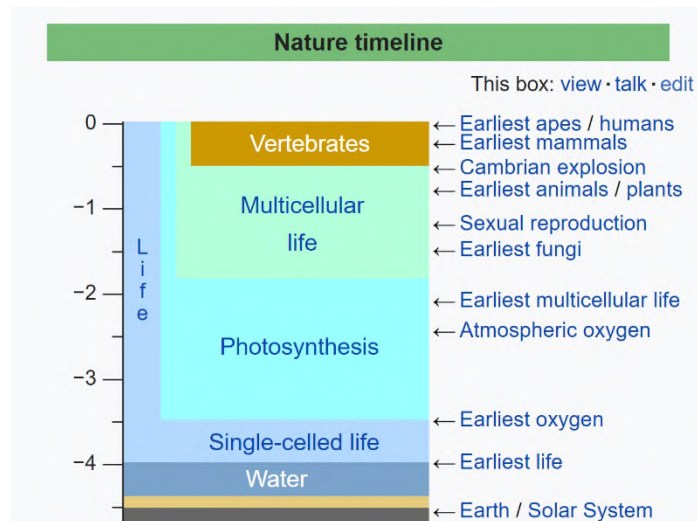
Human Species Chronology (Updated 5 September 2021)

| Time (years ago) | Species (height in m) | Location of Fossil (Brain size) | Capacity | Remarks |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 3 – 7 million | Australopithecus (1.1) | Ethiopia (400 – 500 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Live on trees ● Make simple stone tools ● Walk on 2 legs | Lucy (3.2mya) |
| 2.5 million | Homo habilis (1.6) | (600 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stone tools ● Scavengers ● Can speak (?) | |
| 1.8 – 1.5 million | Homo Erectus (1.6) | Africa, Europe, Asia (1000 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Comes down from trees ● Stand on 2 legs ● Make tools ● Hunter-gather ● Controls fire + cooking ● No speech (?) | |
| 600,000 | Homo heidelbergensis | Eurasia, Africa, Europe (1000 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hyoid & vocal apparatus ● Capable of speech ● Build shelters | Divide into Neanderthals and Sapiens |
| 200,000 40,000 | Neanderthals Denisovans (1.65) | Eurasia, Europe (1300 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stone tools ● Cave painting ● Clothes ● <u>Speech</u> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neanderthal / human split ● Interbred with homo sapiens ● Extinct (40,000 years ago) |
| 200,000 Now | Homo Sapiens (1.70) | Asia, Europe (1350 cc) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Great leap forward ● <u>Speech</u> ● Culture - clothes, burial, jewelry, hunting traps (50,000 years ago) ● Agriculture (10,000 years ago) ● Bronze Age (5,500 years ago) ● Writing (5,000 years ago) | <p>Note other important symbolic cultural inventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mating codes ● Kinship structure ● Moral codes |

Question:

- (1) What difference between homo habilis and Erectus?
- (2) Can habilis speak?
- (3) Jaw bone mutation and expansion of brain size in erectus?
- (4) Vocal apparatus in Heidelbergensis?
- (5) What shelters Heidelbergensis?
- (6) Search Tuttle R.H. (2014) Age and Evolution

Figure 5: Nature Timeline



In the summary below on human evolution, a few important milestones stand out:

- Use of tools (3 million years ago)
- Fire (1.5 million years ago)
- Speech (200,000 years ago)
- Culture (50,000 years ago)
- Agriculture (100,000 years ago)
- Writing (5,000 years ago)

FROM AUSTRALOPITHECUS TO HUMANS TODAY

