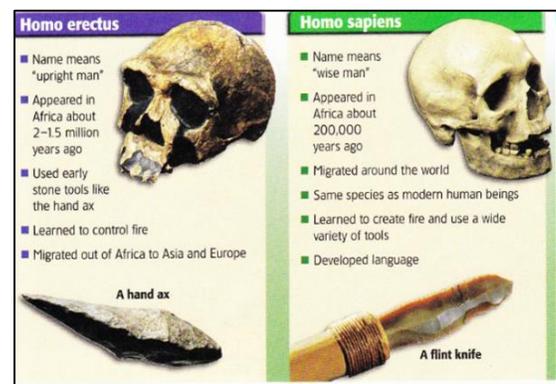


## Did We Evolve from *Homo erectus*?

School textbooks often feature graphical representations showing human evolution. The usual cast of characters includes *Australopithecus afarensis* (e.g. Lucy), *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus* and *Homo sapiens* (modern humans). The first two categories are covered by our other Fast Fact sheets<sup>1</sup> and *Homo sapiens* are just a name given by evolutionists to modern humans, so let's talk about *Homo erectus*. Here is what is commonly taught in many middle school textbooks:

- The name *Homo erectus* means “upright man.”
- Scientists agree that *Homo erectus* was not fully human and was the evolutionary link between *Homo habilis* and *Homo sapiens*.
- *Homo erectus* first “appeared” in Africa 2 to 1.5 million years ago and migrated to Asia and Europe.
- *Homo erectus* used early stone tools and learned to control fire.



What they didn't tell you is that there is growing opinion among scientists that *Homo erectus* was fully human!

Although school textbooks often teach that we evolved from primitive, sub-human ancestors known as *Homo erectus*<sup>1</sup>, there is a growing opinion among scientists that they were fully human.

The growing creationist (and evolutionist) view is gathering strength - that *H. erectus* and all *H. sapiens* forms should be considered not as separate species but as a single human species encompassing a range of genetic and phenotypic diversity. In the creationist view there was no evolution from the apes, nor was there any phylogenetic, “ascent” from an inferior type of human to a more advanced type.<sup>2</sup>

So why would they say this? Here are some interesting facts about *Homo erectus*:

1. Evolutionists claim that the size of the skulls helps determine how far along a creature is in its journey towards becoming human. Fact: the skulls designated as belonging to *Homo erectus* fall within the cranial capacity range of modern humans (700CC to 2100CC).<sup>3</sup>
2. A study was conducted comparing modern humans against *Homo erectus* fossils (specifically Java Man, Peking Man, and East African Man). What they found was a big surprise to many evolutionists. A group of 202 modern day Australian aborigines share an astonishing 14 of the 17 *Homo erectus* traits.<sup>4</sup> The most recent evidence indicates that only a handful of features distinguish these two presumed species of man, and even these are doubtful.<sup>5</sup>

# Fast Facts about *Homo erectus* (continued)

3. Although *Homo erectus* is supposed to represent an evolutionary link between *Homo habilis* and *Homo sapiens*, fossils have been found throughout most of evolutionary history. The dates assigned to these fossils (by evolutionists) show that *Homo erectus* lived during the **same time periods** as both *Homo habilis* (which were likely just a type of Australopithecine) and modern humans.<sup>6</sup> How could *Homo erectus* be an evolutionary link if they lived during the same time period?

Fossil name	Date assigned by evolutionists
Swartkrans SK-15, 18a and 18b	1.8 million years
KNM-WT15000 Kenya	1.6 million years
Kow Swamp Fossils	9,500 years
Cossack skull	6,500 years
Mossgiel Individual	6,000 years

Fossils classified as *Homo erectus* have been discovered throughout the supposed evolutionary history of man.<sup>6</sup> How could they be an evolutionary link if they lived during the same time period?

4. Many of the artifacts found with *Homo erectus* fossils show that they were intelligent—tools, shelters, controlled use of fire and a quartzite rock carved into a human figurine.<sup>7</sup> During the early 1800s, many Native Americans lived in a similar manner. However, it is important to remember that although they were not as technologically advanced as some other cultures, they were fully human, intelligent people who chose to live in harmony with nature.

*Homo erectus* was really nothing more than an example of human variability. The next time you visit a public place, take a good look at the people around you (politely, of course). What you'll see is that humans come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. Remember: humans have always been humans and apes have always been apes. God created you and He loves you just the way you are!

## Recommended Resources

- *Artistic Ape Men Anecdotes*. Perf. Don Baton. Creation Ministries International. DVD
- *Ape Men, Missing Links and the Bible*. Perf. Philip Bell. Creation Ministries International. DVD
- *Bones of Contention*, by Marvin L. Lubenow. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. Print

## References

<sup>1</sup> Holt, *Ancient Civilizations*, 30. Print

<sup>2</sup> Mehlert, Bill. "Homo Erectus to Modern Man: Evolution or Human Variability." Creation.com. Creation Ministries International. n.d. Web. 14 Aug. 2014

<sup>3</sup> Lubenow, Marvin L. *Bones of Contention*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. 127-128. Print

<sup>4</sup> Woodmorappe, John. "How Different Is the Cranial-vault Thickness of Homo Erectus from Modern Man?" Creation.com. Creation Ministries International, 1 Apr. 2000. Web. 15 Aug. 2014.

<sup>5</sup> Woodmorappe, John. "How Different Is the Cranial-vault Thickness of Homo Erectus from Modern Man?" Creation.com. Creation Ministries International, 1 Apr. 2000. Web. 15 Aug. 2014.

<sup>6</sup> Lubenow, Marvin L. *Bones of Contention*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. 348-51. Print

<sup>7</sup> Lubenow, Marvin L. *Bones of Contention*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004. 130. Print