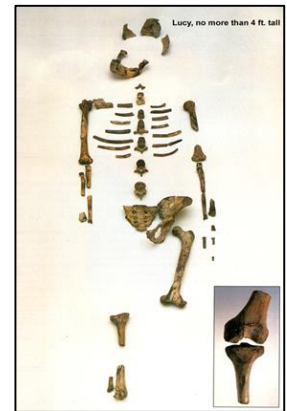


Was Lucy Our Ancestor?

In 1974, Donald Johansen discovered a fossil in Ethiopia, Africa. Although the skeleton was only 40% complete, Dr. Johansen declared that the fossil was the “missing link” between man and ape. The fossil was nicknamed “Lucy” and given the scientific name of *Australopithecus afarensis*. Although the name sounds impressive, *Australopithecus* simply means southern ape. Since then more australopithecine fossils have been found so we now know more about them.

Although public school textbooks often state that Lucy was our ancestor and feature human-like drawings of her, the fossil evidence tells quite a different story. Scientists Jack Stearns, Randall Sussman and others have studied Lucy and other australopithecine fossils. Here is what they found:



Lucy's fossil consisted only of a 40% complete skeleton

- Fact: Their skulls were ape-like with sloped faces and small brain cavities.¹
- Fact: Their hands were curved and designed for hanging from tree limbs. Stearns and Sussman stated that Lucy's hands were surprisingly similar to chimpanzees.²
- Fact: Their wrists had the ability to lock in place for knuckle walking.³
- Fact: Their toe bones were long and curved, even by ape standards.⁴
- Fact: Lucy was around 3 ft. tall.

The fossil evidence would seem to indicate that Lucy was simply an extinct ape and not a human ancestor. Evolutionists' strongest argument that she is our ancestor is their belief that she was bipedal—in other words—she walked on two legs like we do. Have you ever seen an ape walk upright? If so, you probably noticed that humans and apes walk very differently. While there are several reasons for this, the main reason is that our pelvic bones are very different from apes. So what did Lucy's pelvic bones look like? Stearns and Sussman said that they were ape-like and resembled a chimpanzee!⁵

Fast Facts about Lucy (continued)

So you would think that would have settled the issue right? Wrong! Some evolutionists were not ready to give up yet. In 1994 PBS Nova featured a series entitled: “In Search of Human Origins.”⁶ The first episode included a section featuring Dr. Owen Lovejoy talking about Lucy’s pelvic bones. Although you should check it out for yourself, this is essentially what happened in the video:

The narrator states the problem: Lucy’s hip bone fossils show that she could not have possibly walked upright like humans do. Dr. Lovejoy said that the fossils must have been stepped on and broken, so they *only appear* to be like a chimpanzee’s hip bones. He proceeds to “fix the problem” by making a plaster cast of the fossils, cutting them into pieces and then reassembling them “the way they were before Lucy died.” As the camera zooms in on Dr. Lovejoy’s new creation, the narrator triumphantly announces that Lucy’s pelvic bones were “a lot like ours.”

So the question is: how did Dr. Lovejoy “know” what Lucy’s bones looked like before she died? Obviously his creation was heavily influenced by his prior beliefs that we evolved from ape-like ancestors. This is a great example of someone trying to make the facts fit the theory of evolution.

This is what Dr. Charles Oxnard, professor of anatomy and a leading expert on australopithecine fossils, concluded:

“The australopithecines known over the last several decades ... are now irrevocably removed from a place in the evolution of human bipedalism...All this should make us wonder about the usual presentation of human evolution in introductory textbooks”⁷

So was Lucy really our ancestor? No, she wasn’t. Unfortunately, many evolutionists assume we evolved from ape-like creatures. They often try to make the facts fit into their theory and ignore facts that don’t fit.

Recommended Resources:

- Lucy She’s No Lady. Perf. David Menton. Answers in Genesis-USA, 2004. DVD
- Answers in Genesis. A Pocket Guide to Apemen: Separating Fact From Fiction. Kentucky: 2010. Print.

References

¹ Lucy She’s No Lady. Perf. David Menton. Answers in Genesis-USA, 2004. DVD

² Stern, Jack & Randall Sussman. “The locomotor anatomy of Australopithecus afarensis.” *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.60 (1983): 279-317.

³ Richmond, Brian, G. & David S. Strait. “Lucy on the Ground With Knuckles.” *Science News*: 8 April 2000 P 235

⁴ Stern, Jack & Randall Sussman. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.60 (1983): 279-317.

⁵ Stern, Jack & Randall Sussman. *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*.60 (1983): 279-317. pp 291 & 292

⁶ “In Search of Human Origins” 1994 PBS Nova Series, Episode One.

⁷ Oxnard, Charles. “The Order of Man: A Biomathematical Anatomy of the Primates.” 1984. p 3

⁸ Lucy exhibit featured at the St. Louis Zoo.



Exhibits like this one are misleading and do not reflect the fossil evidence⁸