

Intelligent Design vs. Evolution

Defending God's Creation

Genesis 1:1, 26-27

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Fossil Record

- 1. Sudden Appearance
- 2. Stasis
- 3. Gaps

Fossil record conclusions

- Animal life explodes onto scene
- Lack of transitional forms
- Record not incomplete
- Use fossil record selectively!
- Similarity may not be due to common ancestry!
- Impossible to say with certainty ancestry and descent!
- No mechanisms



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Cretaceous



Dinosaur feathers?

- There are three general problems with claims of feathered dinosaur fossils: (1) they aren't feathered (i.e., they have dinofuzz, a wispy hair-like feature that isn't the same as feathers), or (2) they aren't dinosaurs (i.e., they are secondarily flightless birds and not dinosaurs at all), or (3) they aren't fossils (i.e., they're one of the examples of fake fossils that's appeared like the infamous *Archaeoraptor*).
 - Casey Luskin, Discover Institute, August 2014

Dinosaur feathers?

- “The question is whether these fluffy structures are true feathers or fluffy imitations....At a basic anatomical level paleontologists have yet to discern whether the structures on *Psittacosaurus*, *Tianyulong*, and *Kulindadromeus* can truly be called feathers.”

-Brian Switek, *National Geographic*, July 2014

Human Evolution

Human Evolution

- Australopithecines
 - “southern apes”; 3.5 million years ago
 - Lucy (*Australopithecus afarensis*)
- *Homo habilis*
 - “handy man”; 2 million years ago
- *Homo erectus*
 - 1.7 million years to 400,000 years ago
- *Homo sapiens*
 - Neanderthals; 100,000 years ago

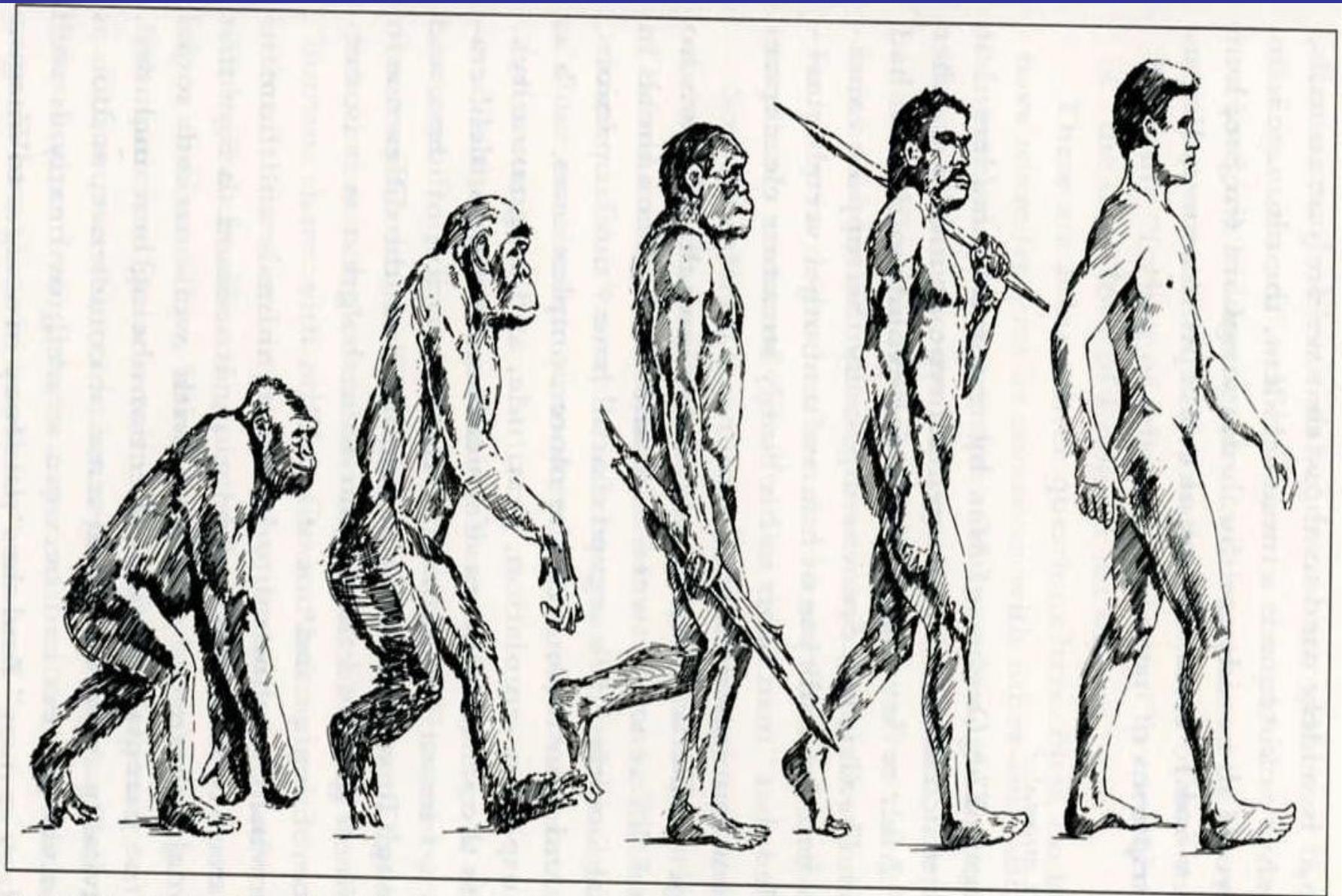


FIGURE 11-1 The ultimate icon.

Human Evolution

“What is not generally known is that this sequence, impressive as it seems, is a very artificial and arbitrary arrangement because 1) some fossils are selectively excluded if they do not fit well into the evolutionary scheme; 2) some human fossils are arbitrarily downgraded to make them appear to be evolutionary ancestors when they are in fact true humans; 3) some non-human fossils are upgraded to make them appear to be human ancestors.”

Marvin Lubenow, *Bones of Contention*, pg. 21

Human Fossils - Problems

- Many were brought together in 1984 for Ancestors display at museum
- Casts
- Most paleoanthropologists have never seen/examined specimen or at best few
- Often denied access unless agree with theory
- Reconstructions

Reconstructions

- "To attempt to restore the soft parts is an even more hazardous undertaking. The lips, the eyes, the ears, and the nasal tip, leave no clues on the underlying bony parts. You can with equal facility model on a Neanderthaloid skull the features of a chimpanzee or the lineaments of a philosopher. These alleged restorations of ancient types of man have very little if any scientific value and are likely only to mislead the public.... So put not your trust in reconstructions"

Ernst A. Hooten, *Up From The Ape*, pg. 332

- SMU Anthropology professor Ronald Wetherington testified before the Texas State Board of Education in 2009 that human evolution has "arguably the most complete sequence of fossil succession of any mammal in the world. No gaps. No lack of transitional fossils... So when people talk about the lack of transitional fossils or gaps in the fossil record, it absolutely is not true. And it is not true specifically for our own species." According to Wetherington, the field of human origins provides "a nice clean example of what Darwin thought was a gradualistic evolutionary change."
 - Casey Luskin, Human Origins and Fossil Record, 2012

Just So Stories

- Always involves 4 events
 - (1) Moved from trees to ground
 - (2) Developed upright posture
 - (3) Acquired intelligence and language
 - (4) Developed technology and society

Just So Stories

- “...themes found in recent paleoanthropological writing...far exceed what can be inferred from the study of fossils alone and in fact place a heavy burden of interpretation on the fossil record – a burden which is relieved by placing fossils into preexisting narrative structures.”
 - Misia Landau, *Narratives of Human Evolution*, pg. 148

Just So Stories

- “In paleoanthropology, the patterns we perceive are as likely to result from our unconscious mindsets as from the evidence itself.”
 - Ian Tattersall, “Paleoanthropology and Preconception” in *Contemporary Issues in Human Evolution*, pp. 47-54

Human Evolution

- Thomas Henry Huxley, 1863
 - *Evidence as to Man's Place in Nature*
 - Before fossil evidence
 - Did not believe living apes were our ancestors
 - Argued from similarities

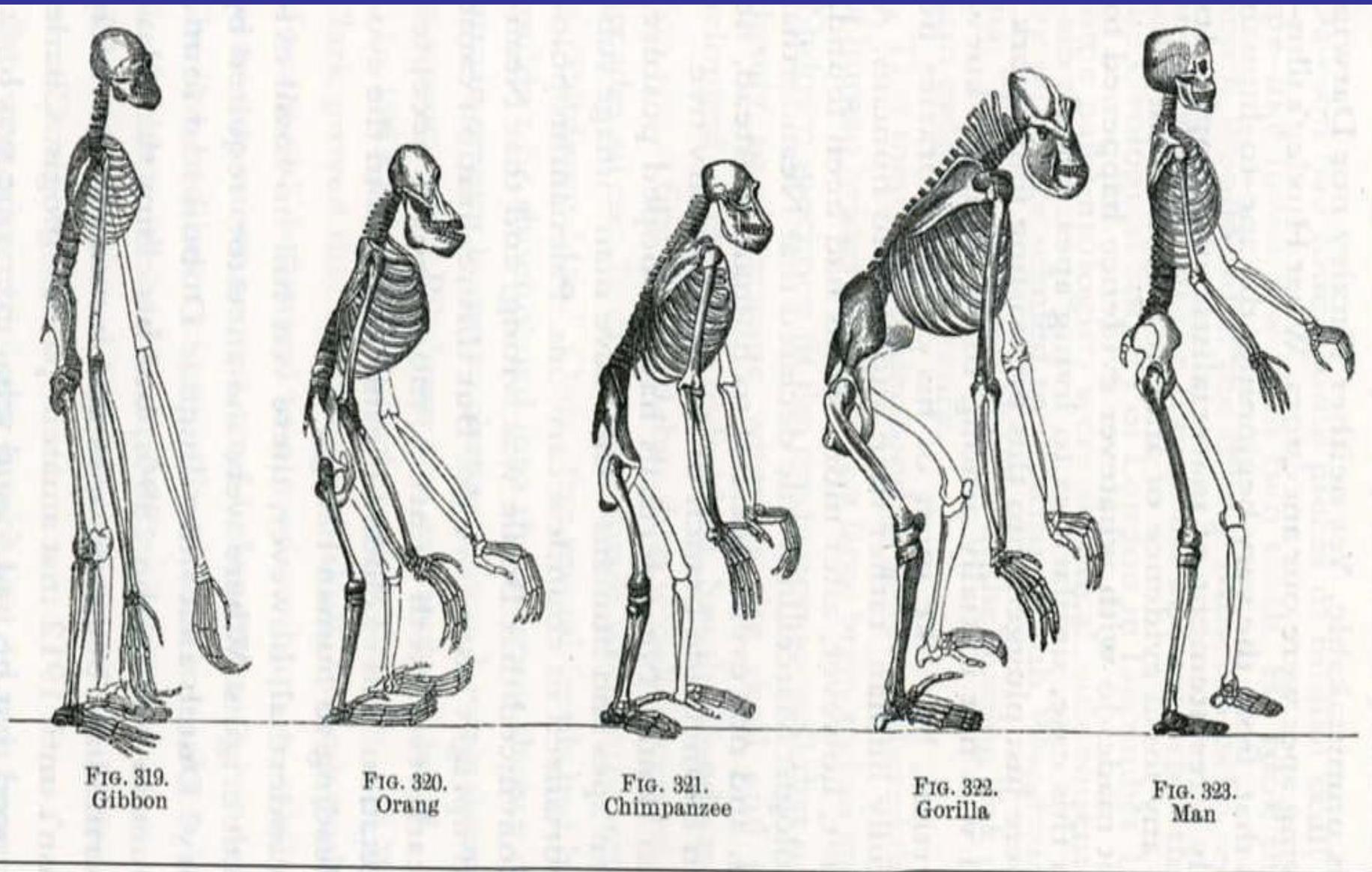


FIGURE 10-2 Huxley's version of the ultimate icon.

Human Evolution

“But if man be separated by no greater structural barrier from the brutes than they are from one another, then, there would be no rational ground for doubting that man might have originated...by the gradual modification of a man-like ape or as a ramification of the same primitive stock as those apes”

“Man is, in substance and in structure, one with the brutes”

Thomas Henry Huxley, *Evidence as to Man's Place in Nature*, 1863

Pittdown Man

- Discovered in 1912 by Charles Dawson
- Found pieces of human skull and part of an ape-like lower jaw with two teeth
- New York Times – “Darwin Theory Proved True”
- For 40 years stood as “missing link”
- Only when ideas about human origins began to change was it reexamined

Pittdown Man

- Skull belongs to a modern human (likely 600 years old)
- Jaw belongs to a modern orangutan
- Jaw had been chemically treated to look like a fossil
- Teeth had been filed to look human
- File marks could only be seen on the originals and not the casts

Nebraska Man

- Found in 1922
- Found only a single tooth
- Claimed to be 1 million years old
- Lead to reconstructions of entire man
- Turned out to be a pig's tooth

Ardipithecus ramidus

- Announced in 1994, published 2009
- Dated to 4.4 million years old (older than Lucy)
- Fossils collected from 17 different areas spread over 1 mile
- Found 8 teeth (including deciduous molar) with thin enamel like you would expect from a fossil chimp
- No leg or hip bone was found despite claims it might have been bipedal
- Everything found is ape-like
- Pelvis crushed, bones very fragile

Ardipithecus ramidus

- "I frankly don't think Ardi was a hominid, or bipedal."
 - Stanford anthropologist Richard Klein
- "I think the head is consistent with it being a hominin... but the rest of the body is much more questionable"
 - Bernard Wood, human evolution expert

Australopithecines

- Lucy discovered 1974 by Johanson
- Found 40% of fossil
- Claimed bipedal (ability to walk upright) even though did not find feet

Australopithecines

- No similarities to humans
- Long arms/Jaw similar to chimpanzees
- Brain size overlaps that of chimpanzees
- Large back muscles for tree-dwelling
- Feet of other australopithecines ape-like (i.e. long, curved with opposable large toe)
- New evidence suggests walked more like an ape-like creature (i.e., not upright)

Australopithecines

- “Regardless of the status of Lucy’s knee joint, new evidence has come forth that Lucy has the morphology of a knuckle-walker.”
- Richmond and Strait, *Nature*, 2000

Evolutionist on Bipedalism

- ...would have required an extensive remodeling of the ape's bone and muscle architecture and of the overall proportion in the lower half of the body. Mechanisms of gait are different, mechanics of balance are different, functions of major muscles are different--an entire functional complex had to be transformed for efficient bipedalism to be possible.”

– Richard Leakey, *Origins Reconsidered*, pp 83-84

Australopithecines

- So, why is Lucy not just considered an extinct ape?

H. habilis

- “Additionally, a study by Sigrid Hartwig-Scherer and Robert D. Martin in the *Journal of Human Evolution* found that the skeleton of *habilis* was more similar to living apes than were other australopithecines like Lucy. They concluded: "It is difficult to accept an evolutionary sequence in which *Homo habilis*, with less human-like locomotor adaptations, is intermediate between *Australopithecus afaren[s]is* ... and fully bipedal *Homo erectus*." Elsewhere, Hartwig-Scherer explained "expectations concerning postcranial similarities between *Homo habilis* and later member of the genus *Homo* could not be corroborated."
 - Science and Human Origins, Gauger et.al., 2012

H. erectus

- Contemporary with H. habilis for 500,000 years
- No real morphological reasons could not be consider H. sapiens
 - Growth pattern, dental structure and development, facial structure and development, brain morphology, height to weight ratio, position of larynx, size of birth canal
- Kow Swamp fossils have all characteristics of H. erectus but are dated to 10,000 years old (i.e. human)
- Differences explained by genetic variability, dietary modifications, environmental conditions

H. erectus

- "To accomplish any seafaring journeys, Dr. Karl Wegmann of North Carolina State University says, 'They had to have used some sort of boat, though we will probably never find preserved evidence of one.' He acknowledges that this discovery weakens the idea that earlier hominids were landlocked. 'We all have this idea that early man was not terribly smart. The findings show otherwise -- our ancestors were smart enough to build boats and adventurous enough to want to use them.'"
 - Jørn Madsen, "Who was *Homo erectus*," *Science Illustrated* (July/ August 2012), p. 23.

- “Our biological history has been one of sporadic events rather than gradual accretions. Over the past five million years, new hominid species have regularly emerged, competed, coexisted, colonized new environments and succeeded -- or failed. We have only the dimmest of perceptions of how this dramatic history of innovation and interaction unfolded...”
 - Ian Tattersal, *Scientific American*, January 2000, pg. 55-62

- “The earliest fossils of *Homo*, *Homo rudolfensis* and *Homo erectus*, are separated from *Australopithecus* by a large, unbridged gap. How can we explain this seeming saltation? Not having any fossils that can serve as missing links, we have to fall back on the time-honored method of historical science, the construction of a historical narrative”
 - Ernest Mayr, *What Makes Biology Unique?*, pg. 198, 2004

Neanderthals

- First discovered in 1856 in Germany
- Flawed reconstructions by Marcellin Boule
 - ‘cave man’
- When reconstructed correctly looked human
- Larger average brain size than modern humans

Neanderthals

- Used jewelry and musical instruments
- Made cave-paintings
- Used tools
- Buried their dead in caves
- Lived in caves

Neanderthals

- Thickened brow ridge
- Stocky body build - strong
- Short extremities
- Capable of speech

Neanderthals

- “Neanderthals were human. They buried their dead, used tools, had a complex social structure, employed language, and played musical instruments. Neanderthal anatomy differences are extremely minor and can be for the most part explained as a result of a genetically isolated people that lived a rigorous life in a harsh, cold climate.”
- Dave Phillips, physical anthropologist, 2000

Neanderthals

- Strong, stocky
- Isolated population of people
- Lived in a cold, harsh climate
- Human
- Supposed DNA found in modern humans, went extinct by inter-marriage

Cranial Size

Taxon	Cranial Capacities	Taxon Resembles
Gorilla (<i>Gorilla gorilla</i>)	340-752 cc	Modern Apes
Chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes</i>)	275-500 cc	
<i>Australopithecus</i>	370-515 cc (Avg. 457 cc)	
<i>Homo habilis</i>	Avg. 552 cc	
<i>Homo erectus</i>	850-1250 cc (Avg. 1016 cc)	Modern Humans
Neanderthals	1100-1700 cc (Avg. 1450 cc)	
<i>Homo sapiens</i>	800-2200 cc (Avg. 1345 cc)	

Casey Luskin, *The Genus Homo*, 2012

KP 271

- Distal end of humerus
- Found in Kenya
- Dated to 4.5 million years old
- Analysis shows it indistinguishable from modern humans (was compared to all hominid species)
- Classified as Australopithecine

Human Footprints

- Mary Leakey described in National Geographic in 1979
- 69 footprints found near Laetoli, Tanzania
- “remarkably similar to those of modern man”
- Date to 3.7 million years old
- Russell Tuttle (University of Chicago) agreed nearly identical to modern humans who always walk barefoot

Skull 1470

- Found by Richard Leakey in strata previously dated to 2.6 million years
- Large cranial size and modern morphological features
- Roger Lewin (worked with Leakey) admits that reconstruction depended on preconceptions
- Date eventually changed to 1.9 million years and classified as *H. habilis*
- National Geographic reconstructions

Conclusions

- Found extinct apes
- Found a variety of humans
- Intelligent Design – we are God's special creation