

There are over five known species in the genus *Australopithecus* and at least three known species in the genus *Paranthropus*. It is essential, when learning about Human evolution, to know the traits that are used to identify the different hominin fossil species.

These flashcards will help you learn about the significance of some of the most well-known fossils, and their identifying traits.

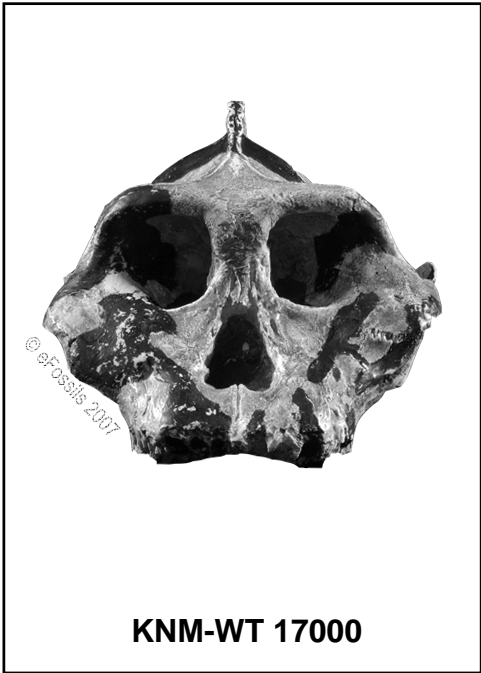
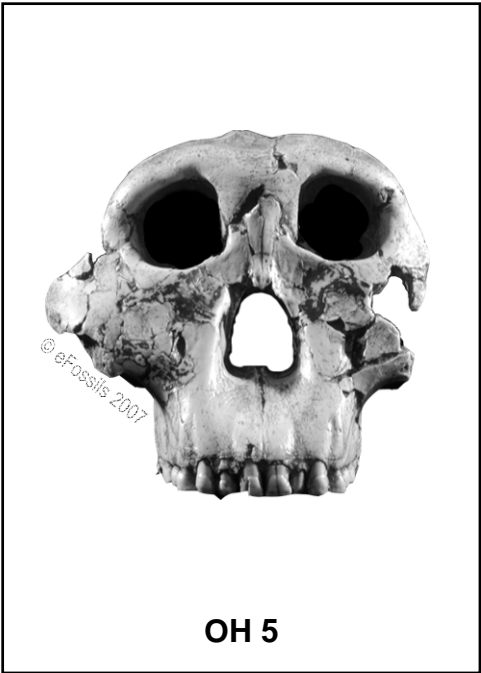
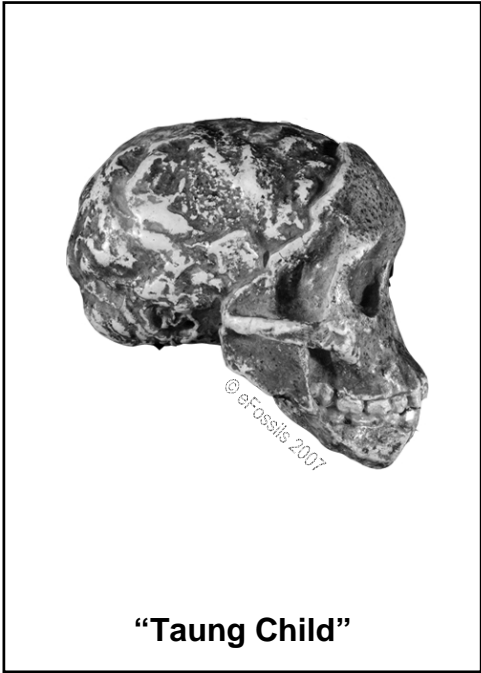
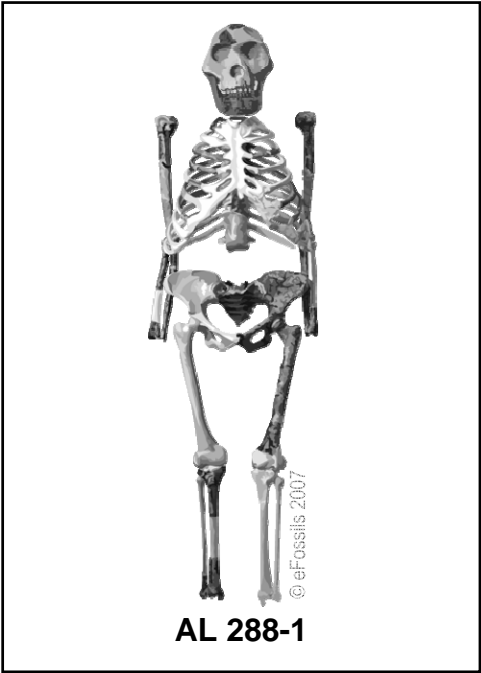
Instructions for Printing Flashcards:

1. Print on both sides of one piece of paper, preferably cardstock or other heavy-weight paper. For best results, use the “duplex” or two-sided printing option. Or flip the paper after printing the first side.
2. After printing the first side, flip the paper over and feed back into the printer. The cards are formatted to print the correct information on the appropriate side of the card.
 - Note: using a higher printing resolution will improve the quality of the images.
3. Cut out the flashcards along the borders.
4. Have fun and learn!

This set includes the fossil hominins:

- AL-288, “Lucy”
- “Taung Child”
- OH 5, “Nutcracker Man”
- KNM-WT 17000, “The Black Skull”

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“Taung Child”

Australopithecus africanus

Discovery

Who: Raymond Dart

Where: Taung, South Africa

When: 1924

Fossil

Geological Age: ~3-<2.5 million years

Age: Juvenile, 3-5 years old

Brain Capacity: 410 cubic centimeters
(440 cc as an adult)

Notables

- The first Australopithecine discovered
- Well preserved endocranial cast of the brain.
- More inferior placement of the foramen magnum suggests *A. africanus* was bipedal.
- Small, incisor like canines
- Flattened face (less prognathic)

AL 288-1

Australopithecus afarensis

Nickname: “Lucy”

Discovery

Who: Donald Johanson, Yves Coppens
and Tim White

Where: The Hadar Site, Afar Region, Ethiopia

When: November 24, 1974

Fossil

Geological Age: 3.2 million years

Sex: Female

Age: Adult, 25 years

Stature: 107 centimeters (3'6")

Weight: 28 kilograms (65 lbs)

Brain Capacity: 375-500 cubic centimeters

Notables

- Determined to have walked bipedally based on the valgus knee.
- Broad central incisors
- Projecting face

KNM-WT 17000

Paranthropus aethiopicus

(also referred to as *Australopithecus aethiopicus*)

Nickname: “The Black Skull”

Discovery

Who: Alan Walker and Richard Leakey

Where: Lomekwi, Lake Turkana, Kenya

When: 1985

Fossil

Geological Age: 2.5 – 2.3 million years

Brain Capacity: 410 cc cubic centimeters

Notables

- Known as a “robust” Australopithecine
- Pronounced sagittal crest
- Wide zygomatic arches
- Bipedal
- Thick maxillary palate
- Post crania more similar to *A. afarensis*

OH 5

Paranthropus boisei

(also referred to as *Australopithecus boisei*)

Nickname: “Nutcracker Man”

Discovery

Who: Mary Leakey

Where: Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania

When: July 17, 1959

Fossil

Geological Age: 2.3 - 1.8 million years

Brain Capacity: 530 cubic centimeters

Notables

- Known as a “robust” Australopithecine
- Very large mandibles (jaws).
- Molar teeth demonstrated megadontia
- Incisor like canines
- Pronounced sagittal crest
- Wide zygomatic arches
- Bipedal