

Origin and Evolution of Man



A Chronological Breakdown of
Hominid Morphological and
Cultural Progression



The Early Primates (15 Million Years Ago)

Dryopithecus

More ape-like in appearance and structure.



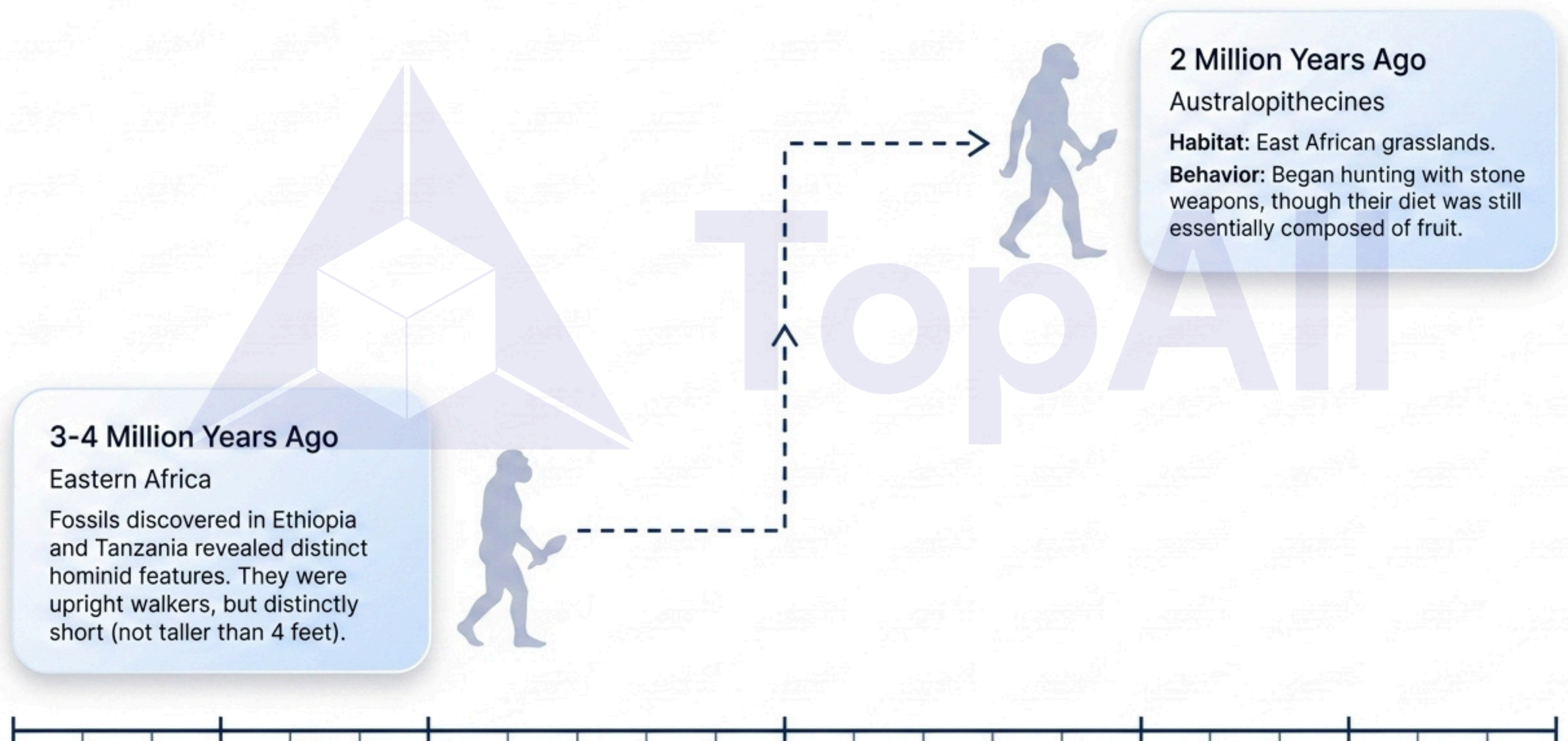
Ramapithecus

More man-like in appearance.



NEET Exam Note: Despite the morphological differences, both Dryopithecus and Ramapithecus were exceptionally hairy and walked similarly to modern gorillas and chimpanzees.

The Shift to Bipedalism (3-4 mya to 2 mya)





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The Dawn of Genus Homo (2 mya to 1.5 mya)

Homo habilis

The first true human-like being (the hominid).

Brain Capacity: 650-800 cc.



Common Misconception:

Despite using stone weapons, Homo habilis did **NOT eat meat.**

Homo erectus

1.5 Million Years Ago

Discovery: Fossils discovered in Java in 1891.

Brain Capacity: 900 cc (a significant leap).

Diet: Likely consumed meat.



The Cultural Shift: Neanderthal Man

Timeline & Geography

Lived between 1,00,000 to 40,000 years ago, primarily located in the Near East and Central Asia.



Cranial Capacity

Massive brain size of approximately 1400 cc.

Cultural Behavior

Demonstrated advanced survival and social behaviors: actively used hides to protect their bodies and practiced the burying of their dead.



The Modern Era: Homo Sapiens

Arose in Africa and moved across continents, developing into distinct races.

75,000 - 10,000 Years Ago

Modern Homo sapiens emerged during the Ice Age.



18,000 Years Ago

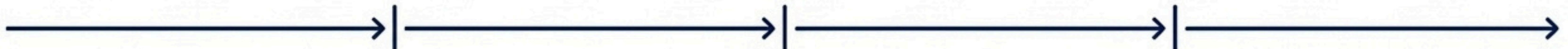
Development of Pre-historic Cave Art.



Famous examples can be seen at the Bhimbetka rock shelter in Raisen district, Madhya Pradesh.

10,000 Years Ago

The dawn of Agriculture and the establishment of the first human settlements, launching the modern history of human civilizations.



Morphological Evidence: Skull Proportions



Ontogeny and Phylogeny:

The skull of a baby chimpanzee shares closer morphological proportions to an adult human skull than it does to an adult chimpanzee skull.



Synthesis Matrix: Hominid Progression



Species	Timeline	Brain Capacity	Key Diet/Tools	Unique Features
Homo habilis	~2 mya	650-800 cc	Stone tools, Fruit (No meat)	First human-like hominid
Homo erectus	~1.5 mya	900 cc	Ate meat	Java fossil (1891)
Neanderthal	100k-40k ya	1400 cc	Used hides	Buried their dead
Homo sapiens	75k-10k ya	Modern	Agriculture (10k ya)	Cave art (18k ya)



Core Evolutionary Takeaways



1. Cranial Expansion

A consistent, linear progression in brain capacity from 650cc (*H. habilis*) to 1400cc (Neanderthals).



2. Postural Shift

The transition from knuckle-walking primate ancestors to the fully bipedal upright stance seen first in East African hominids.



3. Dietary Evolution

The critical shift from a purely fruit-based diet (Australopithecines/*H. habilis*) to the inclusion of meat (*H. erectus*), supporting larger brain development.



4. Emergence of Culture

The graduation from basic stone weapons to complex social behaviors (hide use, burial, cave art, and eventually agriculture).





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