

Homo Habilis Artifact 1



Site: Koobi Fora, Kenya
Age: About 1.9 million years old
Species: *Homo habilis*

Early transitional humans had brains that on average were about 35% larger than those of *Australopithecus africanus*. In fact, it is beginning with *Homo habilis* that our ancestors finally had brains that were consistently bigger than those of the great apes.

As the early human cranium, or brain case, began to enlarge in response to increased brain size, the mouth became smaller. In comparison to the australopithecines, the early humans had smaller teeth, especially the molars and premolars. This suggests that they mostly ate softer foods. An analysis of the wear patterns on their teeth indicates that they had diverse diets that included a wide range of plants and meat.

Homo Habilis Artifact 2

Site: Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania
Age: About 1.8 million years old
Species: [*Homo habilis*](#)

Arch support

By this time, the feet of early humans had a modern-type arch. This foot lacks its heel and toe bones but the foot's arch and general shape are similar to our own and provide evidence that this species' walking gait was identical to that of a modern human.

Do you see the tooth marks on this ankle bone? Their shape and pattern are similar to those made by modern crocodiles. The back part of the heel bone is bitten off, too. A lake with crocodiles was located not far from where this early human lived. He or she may have been drinking from the lake at the wrong time.



Larger
brain

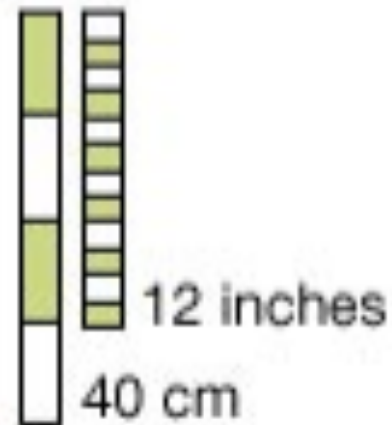
Teeth larger
than the
modern human

Homo habilis

Homo Habilis

Longer arms

An arch at
the bottom
of the foot.



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Homo Habilis Artifact 3: Stone tools

Homo habilis may have been the first of our ancestors to make stone tools. This represented a significant change in mental capabilities and a shift toward new survival strategies. These tools were a simple progression from the use of sticks and natural, unmodified stones that our earliest ancestors probably used. The chopping or cutting edges on Oldowan tools were created by using one stone (the hammerstone) to strike another (the core) in order to remove one or more rock fragments (flakes).



Ground-Edge axe
(used for chopping)



Flaked-Edge adze
(used for woodworking)



Blade knife
(used for slicing)



Arrowhead
(used for hunting)

