

## Timeline of human evolution

| Time (Years BP) | Human evolution 'events'  | Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age) periods | Geological Periods       | Time as % of last 7,000,000 years <sup>1</sup> |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| c. 6–7mya       | Split of hominins from the Great Apes   |                                      | Miocene                  | 100%   |
| c. 3.6mya       | The Laetoli footprints ( <i>A. afarensis</i> )                                |                                      | Pliocene                 | 51%  |
| c. 3.3mya       | 1 <sup>st</sup> stone tools (Africa)  | Start of the Lower Palaeolithic      | Start of the Pleistocene | 47%  |
| c. 2.6mya       |   |                                      |                          | 37%  |
| c. 1.8          | 1 <sup>st</sup> spreading out of hominins ( <i>H. erectus</i> ) beyond Africa |                                      |                          | 26%  |
| c. 1.4mya       | Hominins spread into Europe   |                                      |                          | 20%  |
| c. 900kya       | Hominins reach Britain  |                                      |                          | 13%  |
| c. 300kya       | 1 <sup>st</sup> appearance of Neanderthals in Europe                          |                                      |                          | 4%   |
| c. 200kya       | 1 <sup>st</sup> appearance of <i>H. sapiens</i> (in Africa)                   | Start of the Middle Palaeolithic     |                          | 3%   |
| c. 50-100kya    | <i>H. sapiens</i> begins to spread out beyond Africa                          |                                      |                          | 1%   |
| c. 40kya        | <i>H. sapiens</i> reaches Europe  |                                      |                          | 0.6%   |
| c. 11.5kya      |   |                                      |                          | 0.2%   |
|                 |   | End of the Upper Palaeolithic        | End of the Pleistocene   |  |

<sup>1</sup>Can use % values to create a scaled-down timeline in the classroom or the playground.