

## Fundamentals fact sheet: hominin species

Species	When	Period	Where	Brain size (% relative to modern humans)
<i>A. afarensis</i>	c. 4–3mya	Pre-Lower Palaeolithic	Africa	c. 450cc (33%)
<i>H. erectus</i>	c. 1.8mya–150kya	Lower Palaeolithic	Africa, Asia	c. 1000cc (75%)
<i>H. heidelbergensis</i>	c. 600–400kya	Lower Palaeolithic	Europe & Africa	c. 1250cc (92%)
<i>H. neanderthalensis</i>	c. 400–26kya	Middle Palaeolithic	Europe & SW Asia	c. 1450cc (107%)
<i>H. sapiens</i>	c. 200kya–present	Upper Palaeolithic	Africa (pre-100kya), then global (incl. Australia & Americas)	c. 1350cc (100%)

Species	Life-style	Body	Behaviours
<i>A. afarensis</i>	Mainly vegetarian (chimp-like)	Large teeth, small brain	Bipedal
<i>H. erectus</i>	Hunter-gatherer	Robust skeleton, similar in shape to modern humans	Bipedal; handaxe technologies; opportunistic hunting (or scavenging?)
<i>H. heidelbergensis</i>	Hunter-gatherer	Skeleton similar in shape to modern humans	Bipedal; handaxe technologies; organic tools (e.g. wooden spears); hunting; fire user
<i>H. neanderthalensis</i>	Hunter-gatherer	Shorter & stockier than modern humans	Bipedal; flake tool (e.g. scraper, knife) technologies; organic tools; specialist hunting; fire-maker; cave shelters; simple clothing?; language?
<i>H. sapiens</i>	Hunter-gatherer	Modern human-type	Bipedal; specialist stone & organic technologies (e.g. spear-thrower, bow & arrow); fire-maker; cave shelters, tents & huts; tailored clothing; language & music; art & jewellery-maker