

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.

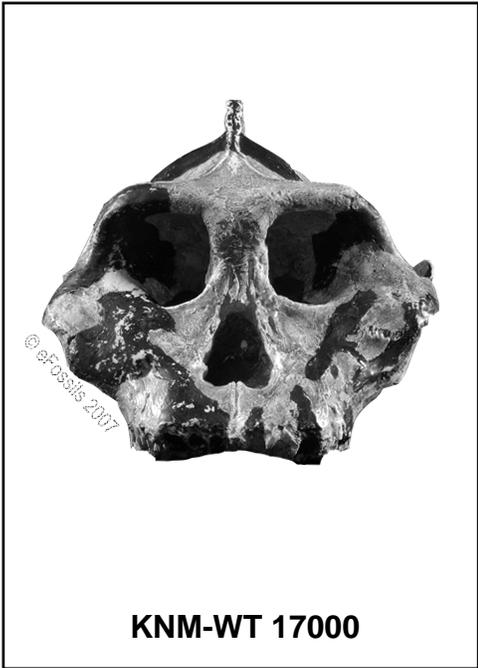
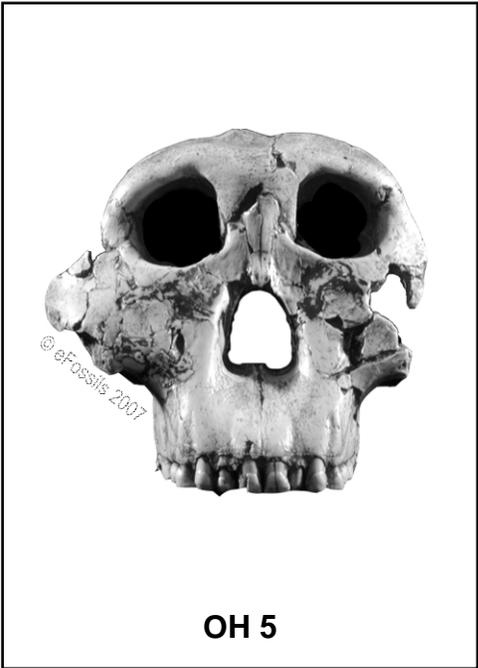
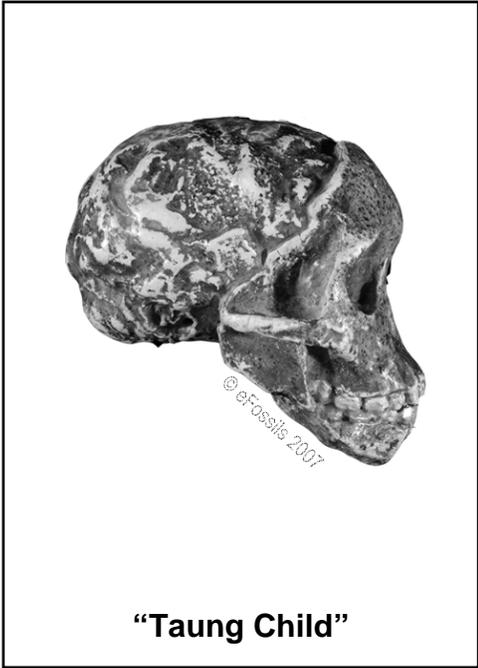
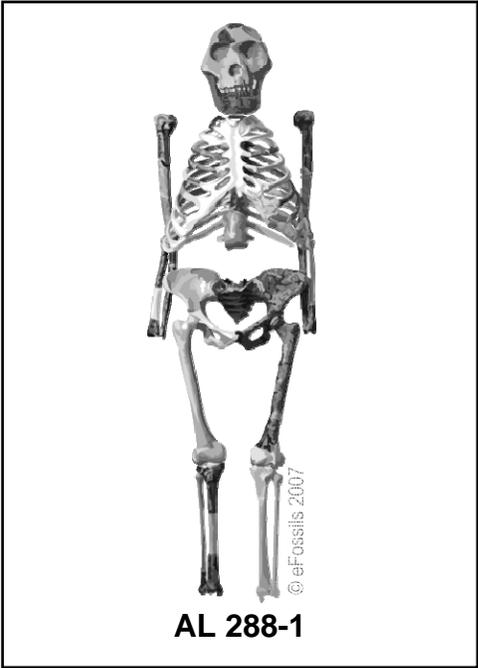
Instructions for Printing Flashcards:

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”

This page intentionally left blank.



### “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