

Australopithecus afarensis

Human Ancestor or Extinct Ape?

Some anthropologists consider *Australopithecus afarensis* to be the evolutionary ancestor of modern humans and evolutionists have dated them to 3 million years ago. The fossil remains of *A. afarensis* have been uncovered in Africa in several locations including, central Laetoli and Tanzania. The most famous *A. afarensis* fossil is "Lucy." Don Johanson found her in the Afar region of Ethiopia in 1974 (Johanson 1981).

In reality they are simply extinct apes

Although they are smaller than the modern day gorilla they have a similar skull shape, notice the pictures on the left. Many biologist (Herbert 1983) claim that they are related to the Pygmy Chimpanzee, commonly called Bonobo (*Pan paniscus*). These pygmy chimpanzees live in modern day Zaire. This is only a few hundred miles from where many of the remains of *A. afarensis* have been found. *A. afarensis* were the same size and have the same skeletal and body shape as the pygmy chimpanzees. Scientists state that the *A. afarensis* were bipedal (walked upright). The pygmy chimpanzees are also bipedal.

Also human fossils indistinguishable from modern man have been found predating many of the *A. afarensis* fossils. These out of order fossils show modern man was walking the earth during the time of the Australopithecus.