

Important events in evolution

Significant events which impacted the history of Earth

3.2 million years ago
The age of Lucy, the fossil

11:59:29 HRS

Perhaps the most famous hominid fossil ever found is "**Lucy**", an *Australopithecus afarensis*. The remains represent nearly **40%** of the whole body.

It was found by **Donald Johanson** and his team in **Ethiopia** in **1974** and is dated **3.2 million years old**.

The team nicknamed the female specimen "**Lucy**", after the Beatles song "**Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds**", which they played repeatedly while celebrating on the night of the discovery.

"**Lucy**" would have been around **20 years old**, measuring just over a meter tall and weighing around **30 kilos**.

She is very short compared to humans, but her bones, including the hip, show without any doubt that she was bipedal.

To this date, around **100 individuals** of the same species have been discovered.

Mary Leakey, the world famous British archeologist, made another important discovery in 1976 in Tanzania: the Laetoli footprints. These prints correspond to a trace left by two bipedal individuals, most probably from the same species as "**Lucy**", while walking in an area covered with ash. The ash came from a volcanic eruption, cemented after being covered by soft rain and other ash deposits.

