

HUMAN EVOLUTION (JOHANSON, WHITE)

.5
1.0
1.5
2.0
2.5
3.0
3.5
4.0



A. africanus



A. robustus + boisei



A. afarensis



H. erectus



H. sapiens



H. habilis



A. = Australopithecus
H. = Homo

FAMILY TREE OF MANKIND

RECENT EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT IN THE PAST THERE WERE TWO CONTEMPORARY LINEAGES OF HUMAN ANCESTORS. THE AUSTRALOPITHECUS LINEAGE, THOUGHT TO HAVE BECOME EXTINCT ABOUT ONE MILLION YEARS AGO, WAS CHARACTERIZED BY PROGRESSIVE DENTAL SPECIALIZATION AND LITTLE CHANGE IN BRAIN SIZE. THE HOMO LINEAGE, CHARACTERIZED IN MODERN HUMANS, UNDERWENT A REDUCTION OF THE CHEWING APPARATUS, A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN BRAIN SIZE AND THE EVOLUTION OF CULTURE. *A. afarensis*, ACCORDING TO JOHANSON AND WHITE, WAS THE COMMON ANCESTOR OF THESE LINEAGES.