

***Homo erectus***. About 1.5 million years ago *Homo erectus* appeared in the fossil record. Skeletal remains have been interpreted to indicate that he resembled modern man from the neck down and stood upright. Thus he was given the name *Homo erectus* or *Upright man*. His eyebrow ridges are protruding and heavy, his upper jaw heavy and thrust forward, and he lacked a chin. He made hand-held tools and weapons of skillfully shaped chipped stone with which he is thought to have attacked and killed giant baboons.

Where did *Homo erectus* come from? Current evolutionary theory holds that he arose from *Homo habilis*. Donald Johanson injects a sobering note of warning to this conventional wisdom: "What we don't know is just how or when -- and perhaps, even if -- he emerged out of *Homo habilis*."<sup>7</sup>

*Homo erectus* was a world traveler. He is thought to have originated in East Africa and thence expanded into Asia (Peking Man), Java (Java Man), and Europe. Although his brain cavity size is between that of apes and humans, and in some cases approaches that of modern man, his physical appearance would not make him a welcome guest at a dinner party.

***Australopithecus afarensis***. In 1974, Donald Johanson discovered the partial skeleton of "Lucy" in the Afar Triangle of Ethiopia. The name Lucy was chosen because the Beatles' song "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" was playing on the tape player in camp during the preliminary analysis of this exciting discovery.

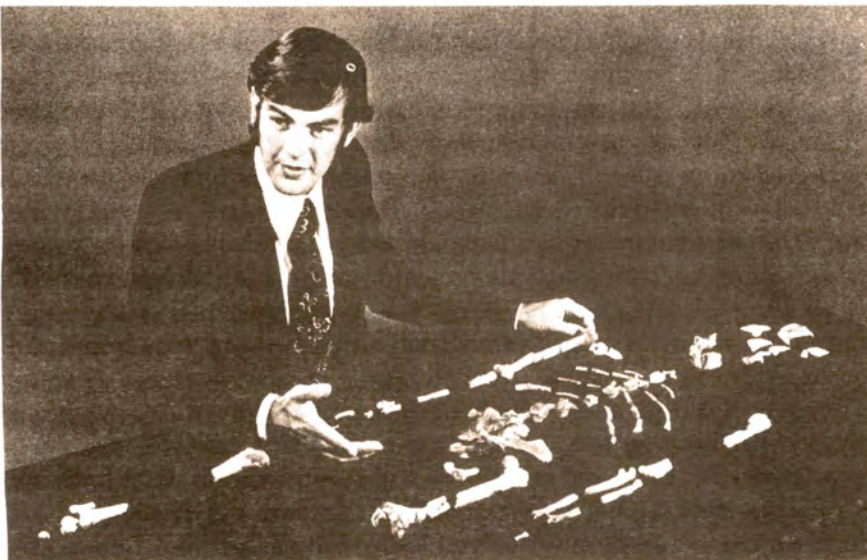


FIGURE 10.8.

Dr. Donald Johanson discovered "Lucy" in Ethiopia in 1974. His analysis of the fossilized remains placed Lucy in the new species *Australopithecus afarensis* (Afar ape-man). Her leg bones indicate she walked erect like modern humans, but her jaw and skull fragments are more ape-like. (Courtesy Cleveland Museum of Natural History.)