

## Hominin Species

### *Australopithecus afarensis*



- 4 million years ago-2.7 million years ago
- East Africa
- Diet: mostly plant based, including fruits, nuts, leaves, and underground storage organs
- Very basic tool use—flakes and cores

### *Homo erectus*



- 2 million-140,000 years ago
- Africa, Europe, and Asia
- Diet: Similar to *Australopithecus afarensis*, but much more varied and unique to its local environments. With the important addition of more meat.
- More sophisticated stone tools, such as hand axes
- First species known to control fire

Life Sciences Outreach Faculty Speaker Series for High School Biology Teachers  
*How Biologists View Structure and Function*  
Fall 2018

*Homo floresiensis*



- 100,000 years ago-50,000 years ago
- “The Hobbit”
- Island of Flores, Indonesia
- Stone tools similar to *Homo erectus*, with flakes and cores, as well as some more complex hand axes
- Diet: Likely varied, with plant material as well as meat (fossils of other animals on the island have been found with characteristic cut and butcher marks)

*Homo neanderthalensis*



- 400,000 years ago-40,000 years ago
- Europe, some parts of Asia
- Many sophisticated and diverse tools
- Diet: Mostly meat, with some plant material as well

Images courtesy of the Smithsonian Human Origins Program