

# Hominoid Ancestors of the Miocene

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## ABSTRACT

Ever since evolution has been accepted as fact in the scientific community researchers have been declaring that they have discovered "the earliest ancestor" of humans or "the missing link" between man and ape. Since evolution is a continuous thing there can be no "earliest ancestor", and because almost every evolutionary development has occurred because of the adaptation of beneficial mutations over hundreds of generations, there is very little chance of finding "the missing link" between humans and our closest relatives, the great apes. One can, however, trace the development of various traits throughout the fossil history to determine rough hypotheses which state when characters developed which differentiate different species.

During the roughly eighteen million years of the Miocene, many evolutionary adaptations were developed by our ancestors which would lead to the current state of our species. The developments of Proconsul, Afropithecus, and other ancestors led to the large brains of modern apes, and placed the foundation for one of the most defining characteristics of *Homo sapiens*, continuous bipedalism.