

Štěpánka Sekaninová · Tom Velčovský · Adam Wolf

FAMOUS FINDS AND FINDERS

SEARCHING FOR THE PAST

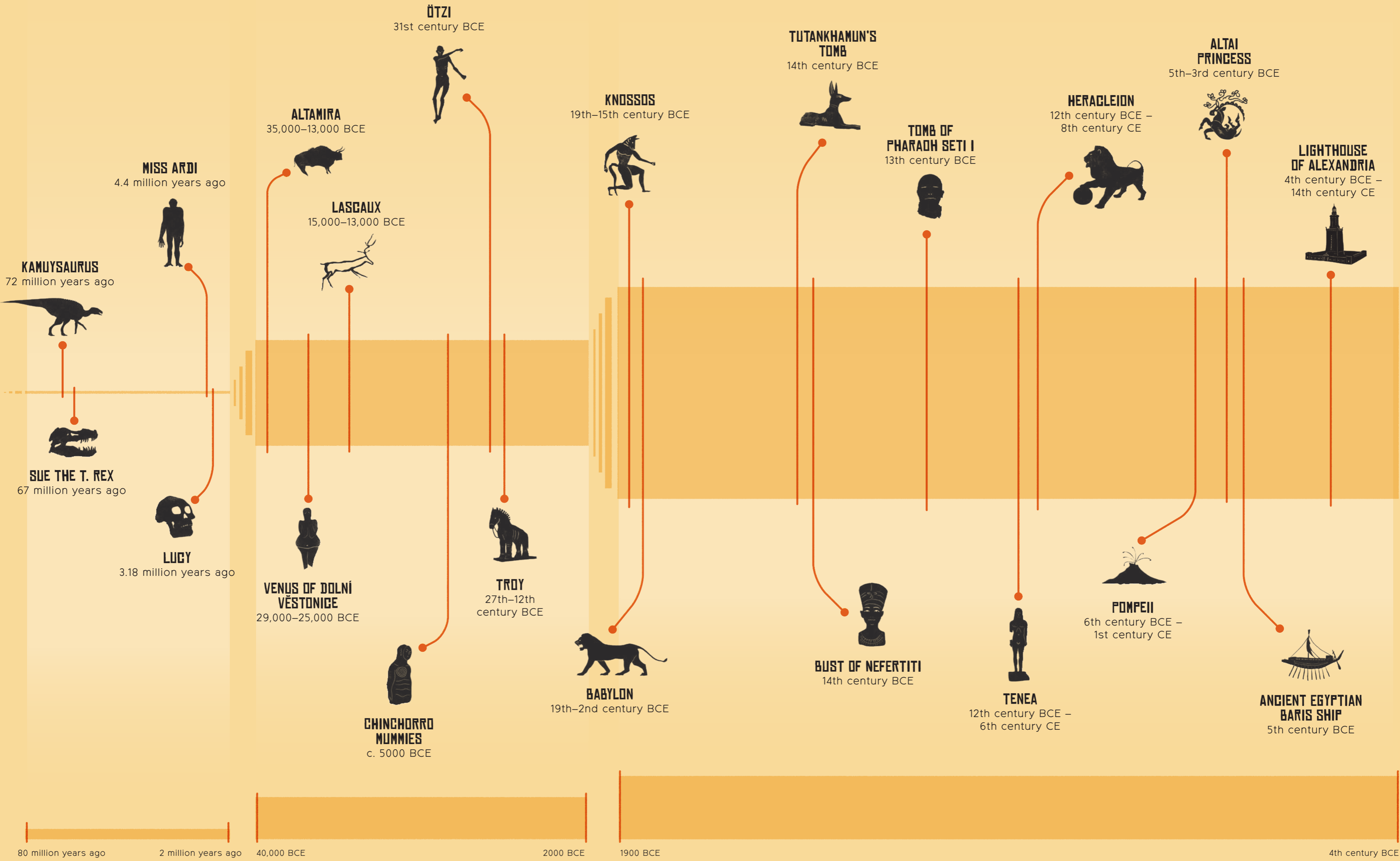
40 DISCOVERIES
FROM AROUND
THE WORLD

Štěpánka Sekaninová · Tom Velčovský · Adam Wolf

FAMOUS FINDS AND FINDERS SEARCHING FOR THE PAST



Albatros



80 million years ago 2 million years ago 40,000 BCE 2000 BCE 1900 BCE 4th century BCE

FAMOUS FINDS AND FINDERS

SEARCHING FOR THE PAST



Albatros

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SEEKERS OF THE PAST

When people hear the word *archeology*, many think of Steven Spielberg's movies about brave adventurers or a sci-fi theme park with dinosaurs. But the way popular movies portray archeology doesn't match up with reality. As for the second movie, we can safely say that no paleontologists spend their time running from predatory *Tyrannosaurus rexes*. Instead, they search for fossilized fragments that have been buried in the ground for hundreds of millions of years, often several dozen feet apart, before taking their discoveries to a lab, where state-of-the-art technology creates images of past giants. Successful paleontologists add to the puzzle that helps us understand life on our planet.



SUE HENDRICKSON – SUE THE T. REX

Paleontologists study long-extinct animal and plant life. Archeologists study anything related to human history. Where these two disciplines meet, we find two discoveries that help shape our understanding of human evolution. These are Misses Ardi and Lucy, whose remains give us a better idea of what Australopithecus and Ardipithecus, our most distant ancestors, were like. Sometimes, a non-archeologist might stumble upon an ancient ancestor while hiking in the mountains. This happened to Erica and Helmut, the discoverers of Ötzi the iceman.



DONALD JOHANSON WITH LUCY



YOHANNES HAILE-SELASSIE WITH MISS ARDI



YOSHITSUGU KOBAYASHI, PROFESSOR AT HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY (LEFT)

FAMOUS FINDERS

One day, our cities will disappear and new ones will be built in their place. Future generations will think of us as ancestors. The people who discover the ruins of these cities may become as famous as 19th-century travelers who, determined to find lost human civilizations, uncovered cities that were drowned, buried under lava from volcanic eruptions, or destroyed in mythical battles. Legends about these cities guided the explorers in their quest. Archeologists in labs are the key to unlocking the mysteries of these cities, allowing us to simulate time travel.



--- EXPLORING THE LASCAUX CAVE



DOMENICO FONTANA:
POMPEII



HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN:
TROY



JOHN L. STEPHENS:
CHICHEN ITZA



ROBERT KOLDEWEY:
BABYLON

UNKNOWN FINDERS

The ruins of old cities and found objects tell us not only how people lived, but also how they perceived the world around them. Frescoes on the walls of ancient dwellings and cave paintings tell us about the first human homes. By studying the *Venus de Milo*, we learn how Ancient Greece sculptors perceived beauty, while looking at the *Venus of Dolní Věstonice* may tell us how prehistoric women saw themselves. Anthropologists, who study humans, look for parallels between the past and present, which is why some finds are associated with a scientist rather than the person who discovered them. For example, leading Czech archeologist Karel Absolon is associated with the *Venus of Dolní Věstonice*, although a layman found the figurine by chance. A peasant discovered the *Venus de Milo*. Four teenage boys in France discovered the cave paintings in Lascaux Cave, and Maria, the daughter of archeologist Marcelino Sanz de Sautuola, discovered the cave paintings in the Cave of Altamira in Spain.



MARIA SANZ DE SAUTUOLA:
ALTAMIRA



MARCELINO SANZ DE SAUTUOLA:
ALTAMIRA



ELENA KORCA:
TENEJA

WHO WRITES HISTORY?

Even when the finder is an archeologist, some finds are not attributed to them. Universities and museums tend to claim interesting finds for themselves. The general public learned the names of the archeologists who made the Sutton Hoo discovery relatively recently, thanks to a film adaptation of the story. The film shows the events surrounding the discovery of the tomb of an Anglo-Saxon king, which made history shortly before World War II, when history was being written for a different reason.

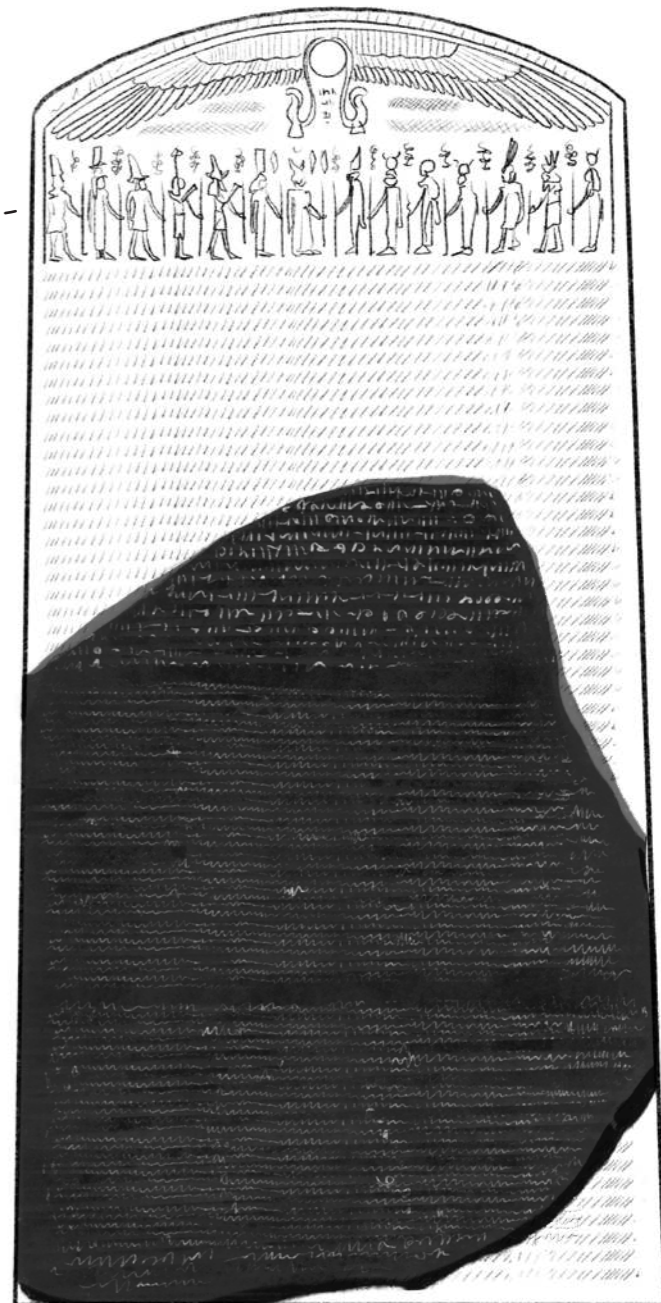


--- SUTTON HOO

APPARENTLY UNREMARKABLE FINDINGS

Not only can people change our ideas on the workings of the past, but an ordinary-looking piece of stone can do it too. The Rosetta Stone is a stele that has taught us a lot about hieroglyphics. Like many simple pot fragments, its discovery caused many scientists to revise their theories.

ROSETTA
STONE



TIME UNDER THE SURFACE

Those who want to dig up treasures with a pickaxe and shovel must be ready to work hard. Because of this, archeologists need the help of laborers. Fragments of the past are buried not only in the ground, but also on the beds of rivers, seas, and oceans. The cradle of life is also the tomb of many water-going vessels.



--- KARLSRUHE



ANDERS FRANZÉN:
THE VASA



BARRY CLIFFORD:
THE WHYDAH GALLEY



ROBERT BALLARD:
THE TITANIC



FRANCK GODDIO:
HERACLEION



ALVIN - THE TITANIC

MODERN TECHNOLOGY

Modern technology comes into play, allowing oceanographers to go deeper and deeper into the ocean—some in just a pressure suit, others in a research submarine. These submarines are designed to allow the crew to descend as deep as possible. When the crew can't reach a certain depth, a remote-controlled submarine can. This way, explorers can uncover the mysteries of the abyss without getting their feet wet.

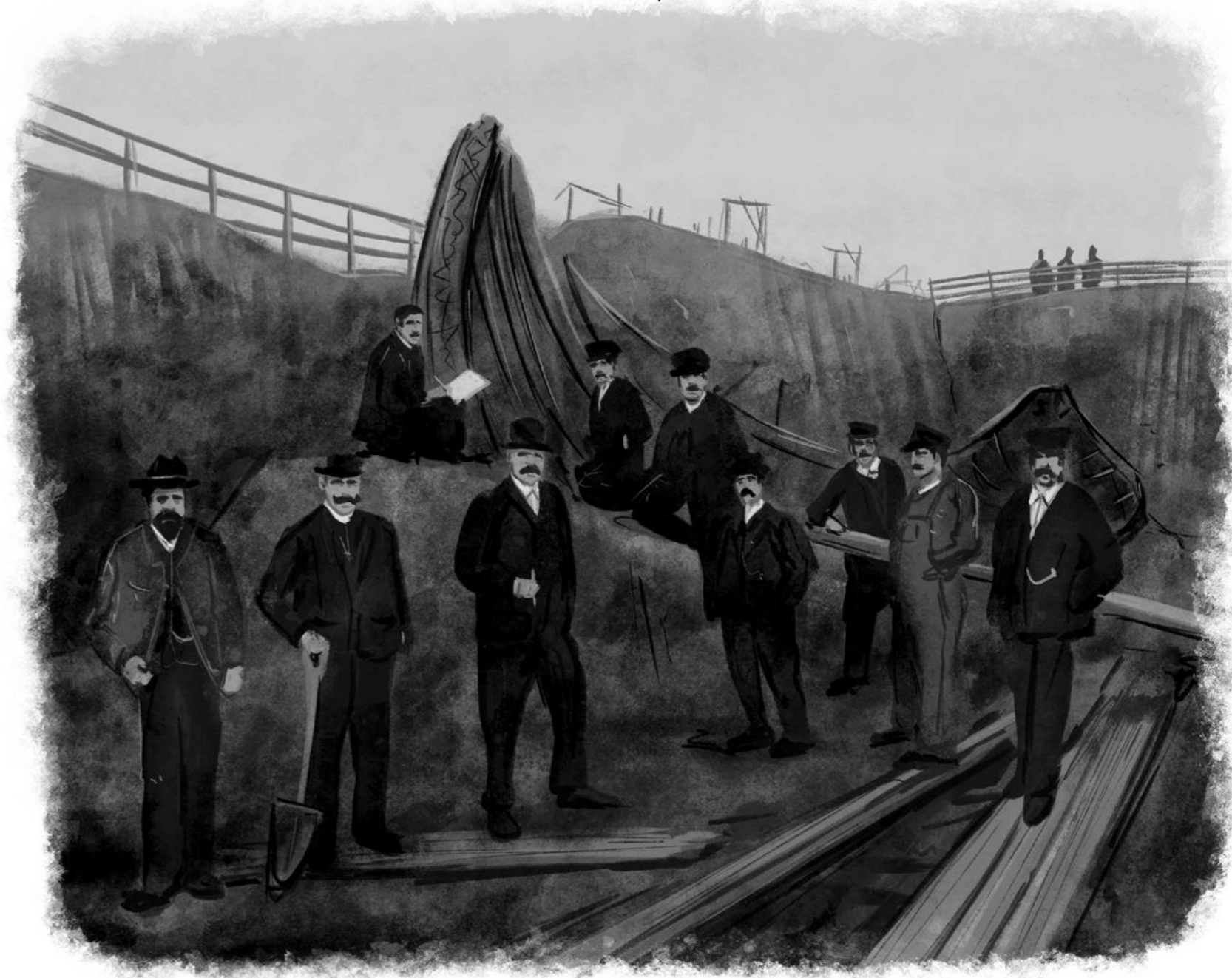
BURIED RULERS

In swallowing what it finds, the ocean doesn't distinguish between ancient and recent. Luxury oceangoing liners and warships alike have gone below the surface for an involuntary rest, only to re-emerge thanks to scientific advances in their future. It's like they are rulers of great empires, woken from a long sleep by a time ahead of their own. In 2022, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of Howard Carter's discovery of Tutankhamen's tomb and the extravagant riches the pharaoh took to the Afterlife. So the present forever becomes the past, which our yet-unborn descendants will learn about. Hopefully, we won't do anything to shame ourselves. If we do, the Future will surely find out.

HOWARD CARTER: TUTANKHAMUN



DISCOVERY OF THE OSEBERG SHIP



ÖTZI

(œtsi)

THE VERY FIRST MUMMY FROM THE LATE STONE AGE FOUND IN A STATE OF PERFECT PRESERVATION – WITH INTERNAL ORGANS, REMNANTS OF CLOTHING, AND TOOLS

A BODY IN THE ICE

The Simons thought they had found the remains of a recently lost climber—until scientists at the University of Innsbruck revealed that the corpse was over 3,000 years old.

WHO WAS ÖTZI?

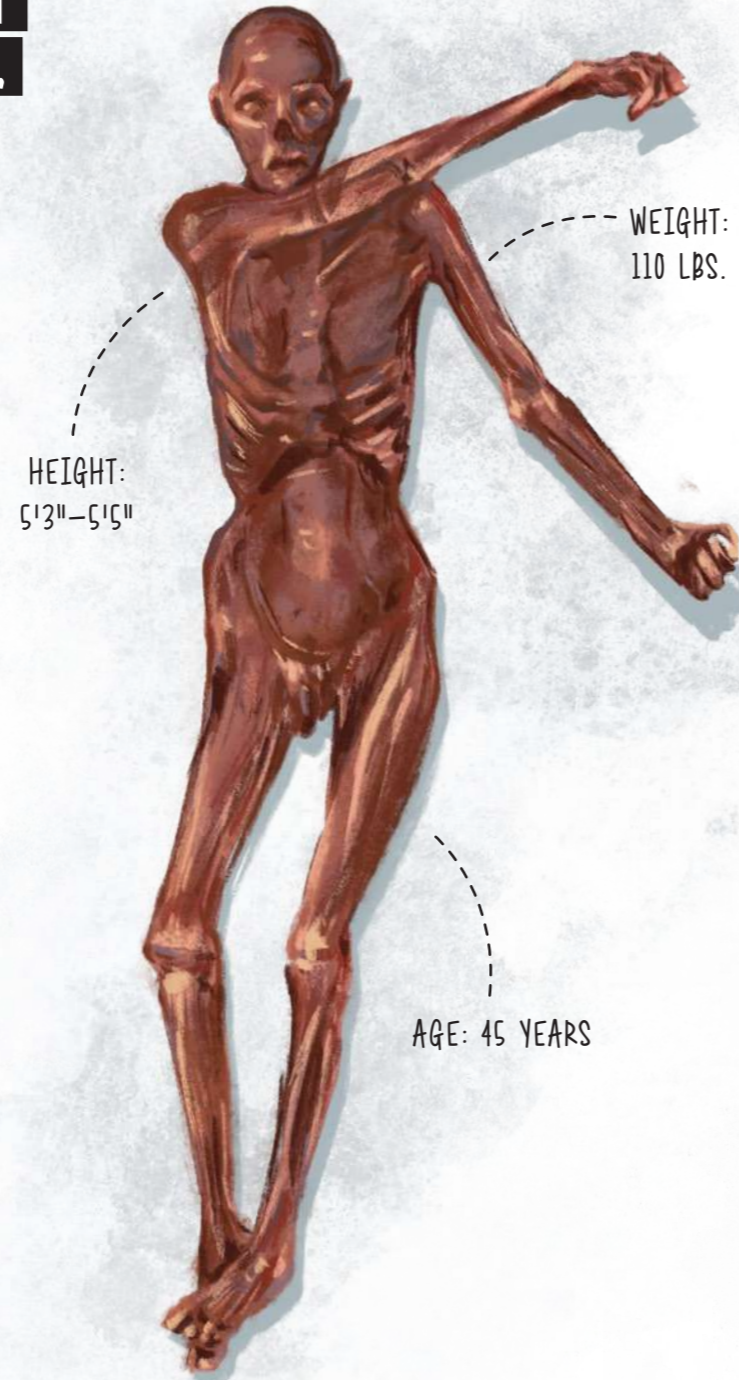
At 45 years old, prehistoric Ötzi was considered old for his time. He was muscular, sinewy, and physically fit, even though he was sick. Ötzi had pain in his back, knees, and ankles, and he also had gum disease, tooth decay, and constriction of the arteries. Since he couldn't digest lactose, he couldn't drink milk or eat dairy products.



61 TATTOOS

The 61 tattooed symbols on Ötzi's body show that our ancestor tried to cure his ailments. These marks aren't for decoration; they're healer's symbols made of crushed charcoal, intended to alleviate Ötzi's pain.

DISCOVERED BY:
German tourists Helmut and Erika Simon



HEIGHT:
5'3"–5'5"

WEIGHT:
110 LBS.

AGE: 45 YEARS

ÖTZI'S END

Although Ötzi was very sick, he didn't die of natural causes. He bled to death after being hit by an arrow from behind, as shown by a wound below his left shoulder. Examination showed that his last meal was ibex meat and wheat cakes. We'll likely never know who killed Ötzi or why.



BACKPACK REINFORCED WITH HAZEL RODS AND A WOODEN BOARD



POUCH SIMILAR TO TODAY'S FANNY PACK, IN WHICH ÖTZI KEPT A SCRAPER, A DRILL, A BLADE, FEATHERS FOR HIS ARROWS, AND TINDER



COPPER AXE WITH YEW SHAFT – IN ÖTZI'S TIME, A GREAT RARITY



VESSEL MADE OF BIRCH BARK

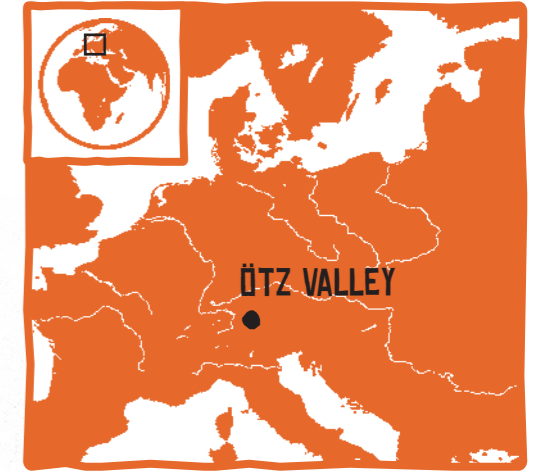
BEARSKIN HAT

CLOAK WOVEN FROM A COMBINATION OF GRASS AND SHEEP AND GOATSKIN

SHOES OF GOATSKIN STUFFED WITH HAY, WITH BEARSKIN SOLES AND COWHIDE LACES. REMARKABLY, THEIR PROPERTIES COULD COMPETE WITH THOSE OF ULTRAMODERN TREKKING SHOES.

WHERE:
Austria,
Ötz Valley

WHEN:
1991



LUCY

(lu:si)

WITH THE DISCOVERY OF THIS PARTIALLY PRESERVED SKELETON OF AUSTRALOPITHECUS AFARENSIS, SCIENTISTS WERE ABLE TO DETERMINE THE APPEARANCE AND WAY OF LIFE OF AN AUSTRALOPITHECINE SPECIES, REVEALING MORE ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF MAN.

WHOSE ARM IS THIS?

In November 1974, paleoanthropologist Donald Johanson of the University of Cleveland was exploring the valley of the Awash River when he came across a fragment of an arm bone protruding from the slope. To everyone's amazement, it turned out to belong not to an ape but to a hominid—a precursor of humans. In three weeks of intensive work, Professor Johanson and his team assembled 40 percent of the skeleton. This skeleton is almost 3.18 million years old . . .

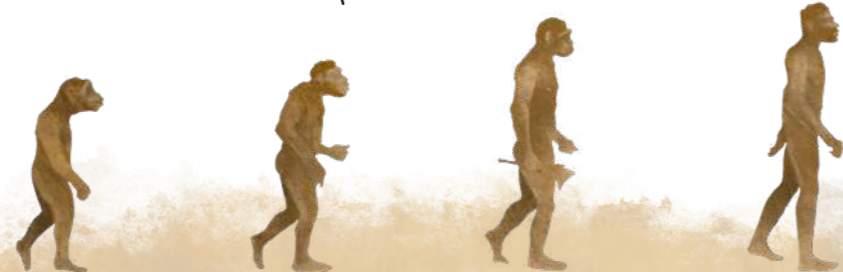


THE BEATLES

LUCY IN THE SKY . . .

Based on the pelvic bone found, scientists determined that the subject was a woman of an australopithecine species. Since one of the team's favorite songs was "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds" by the Beatles, it didn't take them long to come up with the nickname "Lucy."

FOUR STAGES PRECEDING CONTEMPORARY MAN



AUSTRALOPITHECUS
AFARENSIS

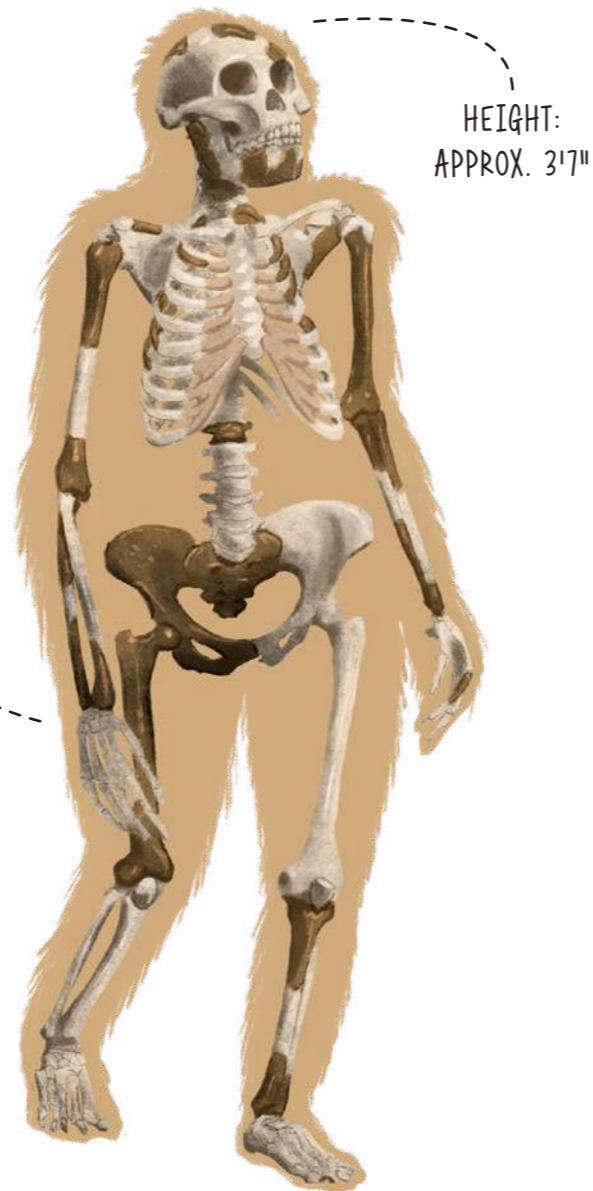
HOMO
HABILIS

HOMO
ERECTUS

HOMO
NEANDERTHALENSIS

WHERE:
Ethiopia,
Hadar

WHEN:
1974



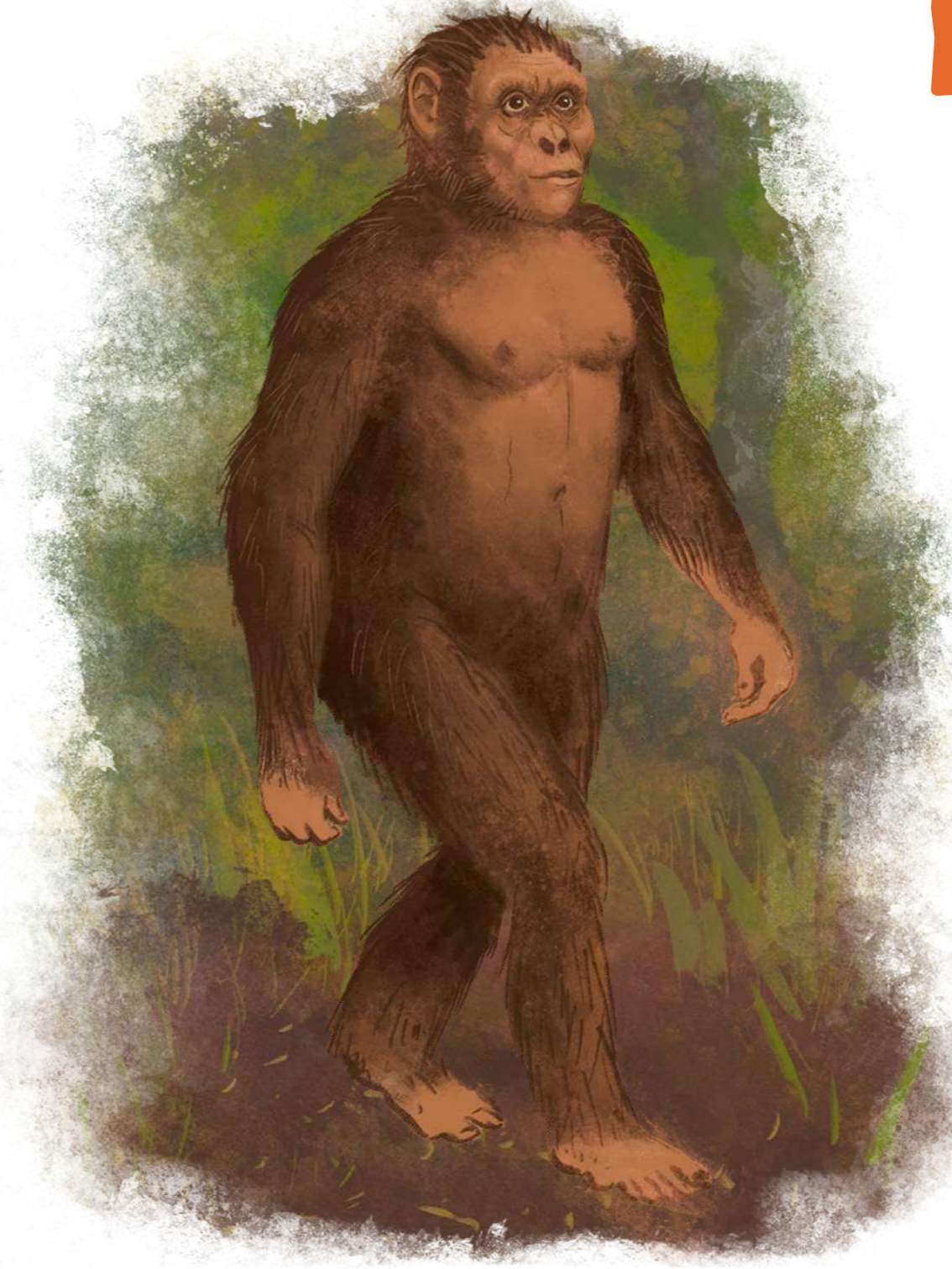
HEIGHT:
APPROX. 3'7"

WEIGHT:
APPROX. 62 LBS.

DISCOVERED BY:
paleoanthropologist Donald Johanson

A MYSTERIOUS DEATH

Lucy was probably 12 when she died. Why did she die so young? In 2016, a group of experts came up with the theory that she sustained injuries in a fall from a tall tree, including fractures to the shoulder joints and arms, and therefore probably had severe damage to the internal organs. Other scientists, including Lucy's discoverers, believe that she was killed by an animal that then stamped on her body.



WHAT WAS FOR LUNCH?

The basic diet of australopithecines comprised sedges, grass, leaves, and fruit, and also some meat. These hominids made and used the first stone tools.

ON ALL FOURS OR UPRIGHT?

Thanks to Lucy, we know that our australopithecine ancestors walked upright on two legs, like us. Unlike us, though, they were such agile climbers that they could live in the trees. Since females were considerably smaller and more vulnerable than males, they were more likely to find safety in high branches.



40% OF LUCY'S TOTAL SKELETON

MISS ARDI

Ardi (Ardi)

REMAINS OF ARDIPITHECUS RAMIDUS [KNOWN AS ARDI], AN EARLY HOMINID ANCESTOR, WHO LIVED BETWEEN 4.4 MILLION AND 6 MILLION YEARS AGO.

A LONG WAIT

Since 1992, archeologists have been finding remains of our ancestors in Ethiopia. It was there that the first remains of Miss Ardi were discovered in 1994. After that, experts gradually succeeded in compiling an almost-entire skeleton of an *Ardipithecus ramidus* female. The complete results of many years of research were published in 2009.



RECONSTRUCTION OF ARDI'S SKULL

NEITHER CHIMP NOR HUMAN

Miss Ardi was neither chimpanzee nor human. The build of her limbs testifies that she walked upright on two legs, although she sometimes leaned forward on clenched fists. Ardi was an excellent climber who could jump from branch to branch with ease.

DISCOVERED BY:
Yohannes Haile-Selassie



WHY IS ARDI SO IMPORTANT?

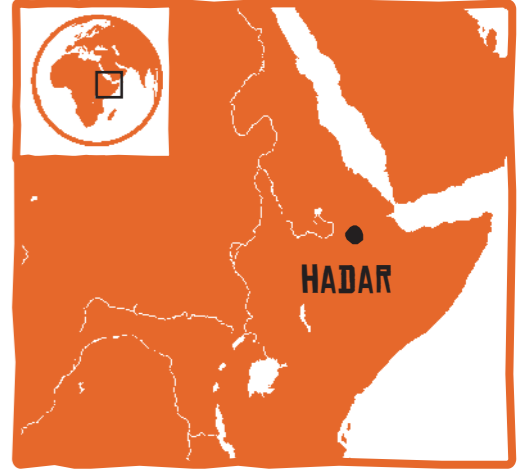
The discovery of Miss Ardi and her relations gives us some idea of how humankind evolved from an ancestor we share with the chimpanzee, although scientists have yet to discover specifics about this common ancestor. It seems, however, that it was 2 million years older than *Ardipithecus ramidus*.

ARDI'S DIET

Like Lucy and her kind, Ardi and others of the species *Ardipithecus ramidus* lived on plants, fungus, leaves, nuts, and the flesh of small animals. In the procurement of food, they used only twigs and unworked stones (things that were at hand) and not tools.

WHERE:
Ethiopia,
Hadar

WHEN:
1992





Scan the QR code for more
information and sources.

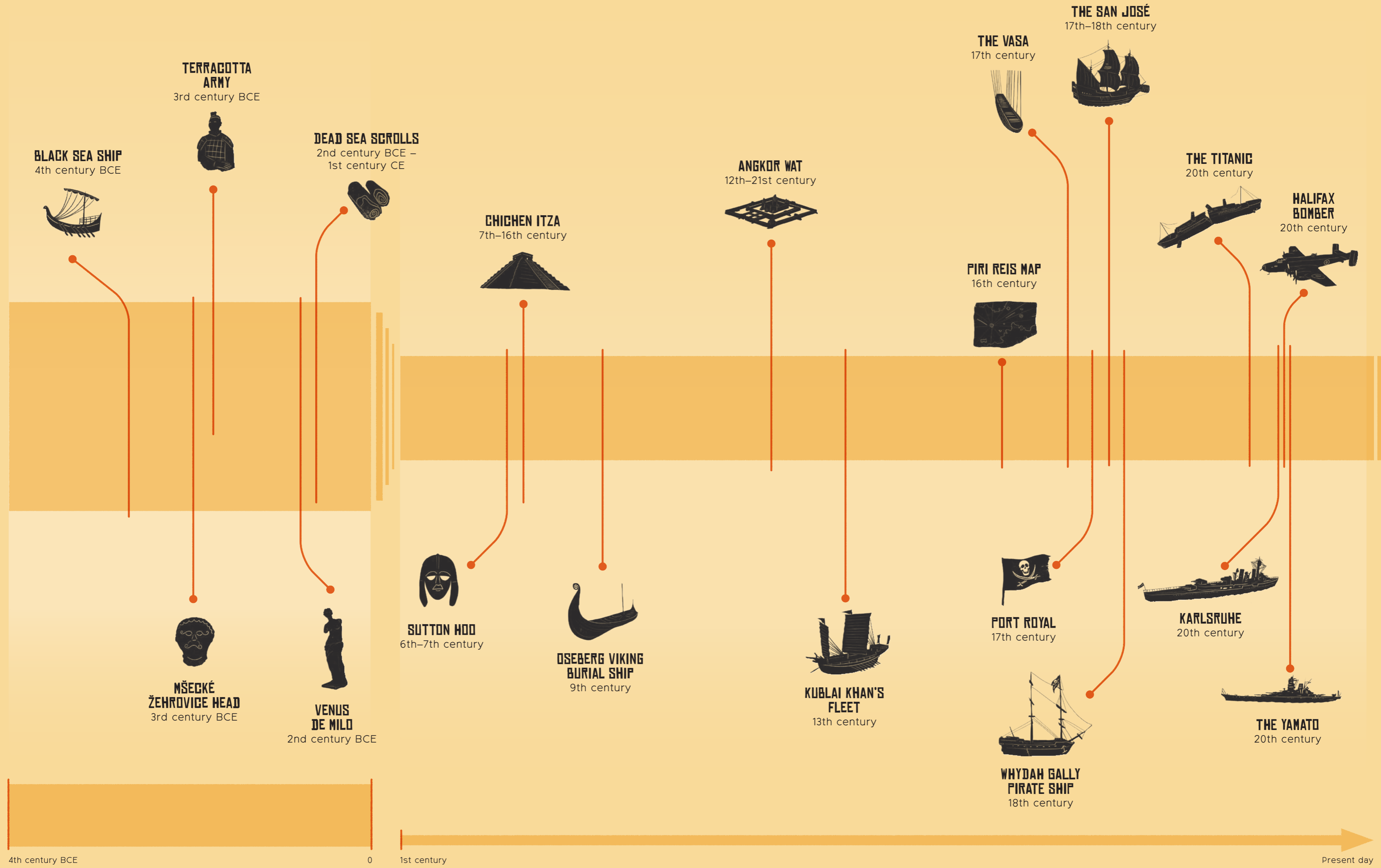


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5. května 1746/22, Prague 4, Czech Republic
Written by Štěpánka Sekaninová and Tom Velčovský
Illustrations © Adam Wolf
Translated by Andrew Oakland
Edited by Scott Alexander Jones

Printed in China by Leo Paper Group

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The discoveries of archeologists and paleontologists are pieces of a huge jigsaw puzzle by which scientists construct a picture of times long past. The past has laid the foundations of the present, just as the present is now laying the foundations of the future. The passing of each day makes each of us a bigger part of history. So as not to be forgotten, we record and preserve important moments, thereby creating our personal puzzle. Our ancestors, distant and recent, didn't have the means to do this. Even so, they left plenty behind. Although many of these discoveries have been covered or destroyed by the passage of time, modern technology allows us to learn a great deal about them, and about ourselves too. *Famous Finds and Their Finders* describes 40 such discoveries, together with their discoverers and circumstances, which themselves have become a part of our history.



\$22.95
Printed in China by Leo Paper Group
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