**Systematic Classification** of Contemporary Humans **Galactic evolution** ~13 787 Mya Cosmic Chemical ~13 600 Mya Origin of Life on Earth ~4 540 Mya **Terrestrial** Earth Atmosphere Oceans ~4 000 Mva Organic Carbon-based molecules Complex structures Amino acids Sugars
Nucleotides
Hydrothermal vent mediation
Polymerization
RNA
Peptides
Lipid membranes ~3 800 Mya ( Prebiota Ribozymes Self-replicatiion Evolution Proteins Enzymes Metabolic pathways Protocells Viruses •= Single-celled life ~3 500 Mya Biota (Life) Self-maintenance DNA Self-reproduction Cellular structure Last Universal Common Ancestor (LUCA) Archaea, Bacteria ~1 650 Mya Domain Eukaryota Membrane-bound organelles Cell nucleus Linear DNA Sexual reproduction Complex cytoskeleton Plants, Algae 👓 ~1 500 Mya Amorphea Amoeboid locomotion Heterotrophy Amoeba 🗪 ~1 100 Mya Obazoa Feeding groove Flagellar structures Signaling and regulatory pathways Opisthokonta ~1 100 Mya Single posterior flagellum Fungi 🛑 ~1 000 Mya Holozoa Food ingestion Internal digestion Cell differentiation Teretospores ( ~760 Mya Filozoa Filose tentacles for Sensory perception, Feeding, Locomotion and Adherance Filasteres ( Multicellularity ~670 Mya ( Choanozoa Intercellular communication Intercellular cooperation Choanoflagellates ( ~665 Mya Kingdom Metazoa (Animals) Multicellularity Specialized tissues Internal digestive system Locomotion Diplontic lifecycle Embryonic development Sponges • Soft-bodied animals ~635 Mya Eumetazoa (True animals) Truly differentiated tissues Symmetry Mouth Anus Comb jellies ParaHoxozoa ~580 Mya Anterior-posterior patterning Distinct body regions Placozoa ( ~575 Mya Planulozoa Larval stage Gastrulation via Invagination Jellyfish, Corals ~567 Mya Bilateria Bilateria symmetry
Head
Three germ layers
Nervous system
Muscles
Digestive tract
Light-sensitive cells
Structured sleep patterns Xenacoelomorpha 💿 Nephrozoa ~558 Mya Excretory organ system Flatworms, Nematodes, Arthropods, Mollusks, Octopuses **Cambrian explosion** ~538 Mya Deuterostomia Grows from anus to mouth Mineralized body parts Starfish, Sea urchins ~525 Mya 🌷 Phylum Chordata Pharyngeal arches Notochord Dorsal hollow nerve cord Post-anal tail Thyroid
Eyespots
Cardiac structures Lancelets Conquering land ~518 Mya Olfactores Tunicates Vertebrata ~518 Mya ( Vertebral column Skull Lampreys, Hagfishes Paired eyes Circulatory system Muscular heart ~439 Mya Gnathostomata (Jawed vertebrates) Jaws Teeth Paired limbs Lens-equipped eyes Sharks, rays 💿 ~425 Mya Osteichthyes (Bony fish) Bony endoskeleton Lungs or swim bladder Shoulders ~425 Mya Sarcopterygii (Lobe-finned fish) Lobed fins Divided atrium Coelacanths ( ~416 Mya Rhipidistia supported by bones Lungfishes ( ~409 Mya Tetrapodomorpha Weight supporting limbs Pelvic girdle ~409 Mya Choanata Air-breathing lungs Internal nostrils Nasal passage Elpistostegalia ~385 Mya Shoulder girdle Neck Loss of dorsal and anal fins ~375 Mya ( Stegocephalia Strong vertebral column Complex teeth structures ~365 Mya ( Tetrapoda Four fully functional limbs Digits Terrestrial locomotion Complex respiratory system Amphibians ~350 Mya 🥚 Reptiliomorpha Keratinized skin and claws Internal fertilization ~320 Mya Amniota Amniotic egg Land-based Reptiles (including Birds), ( Turtles, Tortoises **Mammalian characteristics** ~318 Mya Synapsida Singular temporal fenestra Thermal regulation Eupelycosauria ~308 Mya Differentiated teet Primitive canines ~304 Mya Sphenacodontia Articulated jaw Canines ~280 Mya Therapsida Warm-blooded Vertical limb posture ~266 Mya Theriodontia Flexible spine Mammalian locomotion Seven neck vertebrae Cynodontia ~260 Mya Secondary palate Proto-hair Single lower jawbone Middle ear bones Heel Diaphragm ~235 Mya ( Probainognathia Incisors High metabolic rate Mammalian gait Prozostrodontia ~233 Mya ( Upright running Mammalian jaw **Mammaliaformes** ~227 Mya Molars Hair Class Mammalia ~200 Mya No teeth at birth Mammary glands Fur Three inner ear bones Platypuses, Echidnas Placenta & Pregnancy Theriiformes ~170 Mya Separate anus and urogenital tract External ear Trechnotheria ~168 Mya Cladotheria ~165 Mya ( Sensory capabilities Hearing, smell, touch ~155 Mya Zatheria ~140 Mya Tribosphenida Tribosphenic molar Modern ear Theria ~120 Mya Marsupials ~110 Mya ( Eutheria (Placental mammals) Mammalian diversity ~100 Mya Placentalia Aardvarks, Sloths, Anteaters, Armadillos ~95 Mya Boreoeutheria Shrews, Moles, Hedgehogs, Bats, Carnivorans, Pangolins, Ungulates, Elephants, Whales, Manatees ~90 Mya Euarchontoglires Omnivory Diverse ecological niches Rodents, Rabbits, Hares, Pikas Euarchonta ~85 Mya Hand-eye coordination Symbiosis with seeds and berries Primatomorpha ~66 Mya Forward-facing eyes Binocular depth perception Grasping hands and feet Colugos **Humanoid form** ~65.9 Mya Order Primata (Monkeys) Opposable thumbs Nails instead of claws Larger brain-to-body ratio Flexible shoulders Extended parental care Complex social structures Haplorhini (Dry-nosed monkeys) ~60 Mva Dry nose Reduced olfactory capabilities Vision as primary sense Group behavior Tarsiers • Simiiformes (Simians) ~40 Mya Loss of sensory whisker Two pectoral nipples Naked pendulous penis Vocalizations New world monkeys ~30 Mva Catarrhini (Old world monkeys) Trichromatic vision Reduced tail Downward-facing nostrils 2.1.2.3 dental formula Flattened nails Baboons, Macaques, Mandrills **Cognition & Awareness** ~23 Mya Family Hominoidea (Apes) Advanced problem-solving Prolonged maternal care Learning by observation Tendency toward bipedalism Flexible shoulder joints Hominidae (Great apes) ~17 Mya Human-like teeth and ears Primitive tool use Recognizes their own reflection Self-awareness Empathy Deliberate deception Orangutans ( Deliberate d Mourning Fingerprints ~12.5 Mya Homininae Family structure Facial expressions Emotions ~7.5 Mya Homonini Loss of penile bone Inter-group conflicts Primitive tool use Culture Bonobos, Chimpanzees ~6.1 Mya Australopithecines Bipedal locomotion Human-like limb proportions Flexible fingers Thicker enamel Australopithecus ~4.5 Mya Efficient walking Smaller canines Reduced prognathism Varied diet Diverse habitats ~2.8 Mya Genus Homo (Human) Stone tool making Meat consumption Social complexity Division of labor ~2 Mya **Erectus** Loss of body hair Complex cognition Passing on knowledge Technological development Hunter-gatherer Food processing Controlled fire Roasting, Grilling, Smoking ~700.0 kya Heidelbergensis Shelter construction Complex communication Humanity Species Sapiens (Modern human) ~310.0 kya Species Sapiens (M
Perennially enlarged breasts
Advanced language
Social learning
Clothing
Human migration
Behavioral modernity
Spiritualism
Art
Fishing
Trade
Weaving
Ceramics
Bow and Arrow
Bread Civilized Settlements
Agriculture
Grindstones
Pottery
Domestication of animals
Fermentation
Metalworking
Wheel ~5.2 kya Historic Writing Calendar Formal education Governance Literature Architecture
Mathematics
Alphabet
Medicine Philosophy Currency Engineering Compass Gunpowder Printing press Scientific revolution ~250ya Modern Enlightenment Industrialization ~70ya Contemporary (You are here) Space exploration Globalization Digitization Anthropogenic climate change Compiled by Anthony Liekens, January 2025 Licensed under CC BY-NC-SA 4.0