HOW DID OUR ANCESTORS EVOLVE?

What might these fossils be able to tell us about how early humans lived? Identify at least one piece of information each fossil might yield.

You may want to google a picture of each one to see what they look like.

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*Homo erectus*, sometimes called *Homo ergaster*, lived between about 1.9 million years ago and 143,000 years ago. The bodies of this species shared the same general proportions as that of humans and study of their teeth has shown that their growth rates were similar to that of the great apes. *Homo erectus* are thought to be the first human ancestors to have mig- rated out of Africa and there is evidence that they built campfires and made stone tools. HOW DID OUR ANCESTORS EVOLVE?
*Homo habilis* was one of the earliest species of the genus Homo and had a slightly larger braincase than it’s ancestors. Thought to be one of the first species to make stone tools, *Homo habilis* had long arms and a face similar to that of its ape ancestors.
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One of the most important ways that archaeologists can learn about human ancestors is by studying their fossils and material remains. Looking closely at ancient teeth can help distinguish one species from another and can also reveal important information about diet and lifestyle.
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Acheulean stone tools like these were made by *Homo erectus* and represent a revolution in tool making some 1.6 million years ago. Our ancestors made the multi-purpose tools (sometimes referred to as hand-axes) by flaking off part of the surface to get a better edge and used the pear-shaped tools for digging, cutting wood or other plant material, and for cutting and skinning game.