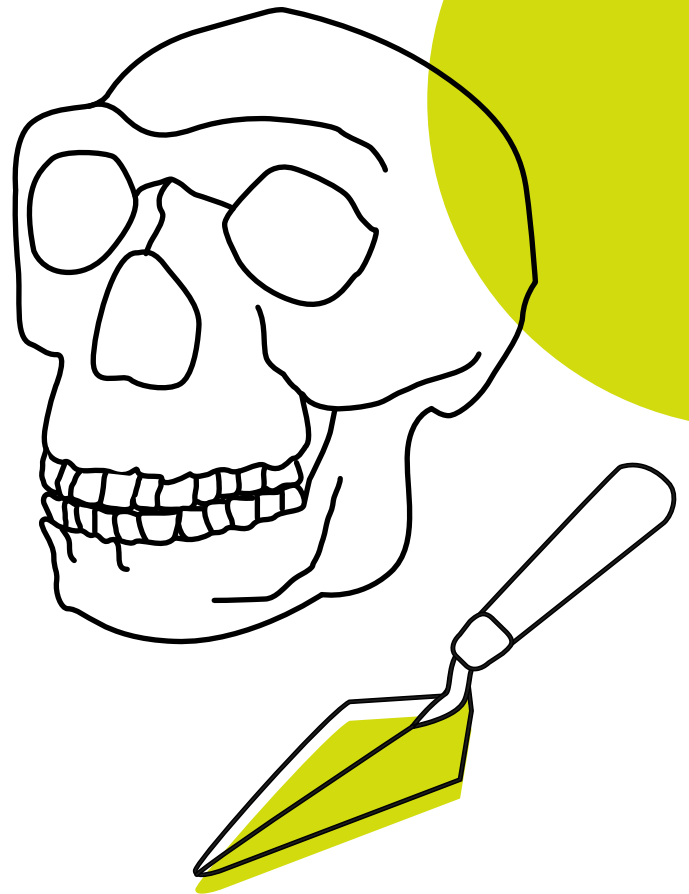


Scientific discoveries...

The oldest *Homo erectus* skull has been found!

In April 2020, the earliest known skull of *Homo erectus* was extracted from rocks in Johannesburg, South Africa, by an Australian-led team of researchers.

- They dated the fossil at 2 million years old, this shows that the first of our ancestors existed up to 200,000 years earlier than previously thought!
- It is likely that the person was aged between 2 and 3 years old when they died.
- Prof Andy Herries, a geochronologist and Head of Archaeology at Melbourne's La Trobe University, said he "could not stress how rare it is" to find enough fragments to piece together an intact brain case, especially given juvenile skulls are thin and fragile.
- The community or tribe that this *Homo erectus* belonged to could have been the origin of everyone alive today.
- This discovery helps researchers continue to decipher our family tree to figure out when and where our host of ancient relatives arose.



Why not expand on this discovery topic and take a look at our 'Monsters and Myth' 9Aa unit in Exploring Science? In this unit, we look at the Myths that often originate from people finding the bones of extinct creatures... You can explore this free sample and many more in our **KS3 Exploring Science page here:** ➔

