National Geographic

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/09/150911-hominin-hominid-berger-homo-naledi-fossils-ancestor-rising-star-human-origins/>

South Africa or the East Side Story?

In 2013, a treasure trove of unusual fossils were uncovered in a cave in South Africa, and researchers soon realized: these were the remains of a new species of ancient humans. Paleoanthropologist Juliet Brophy takes us inside the discovery of Homo naledi, explaining how this mysterious ancestor is forcing us to rethink where we come from -- and what it means to be human.

[How\_a\_new\_species\_of\_ancestors\_is\_changing\_our\_theory\_of\_human\_evolution, J. Browey, TED Talk](https://www.ted.com/talks/juliet_brophy_how_a_new_species_of_ancestors_is_changing_our_theory_of_human_evolution?utm_source=newsletter_daily&utm_campaign=daily&utm_medium=email&utm_content=button__2019-03-01)

2 Homo species coexisting in Africa at 335.000 to 235.000 years ago

Small cranium, abt 1/3 of modern humans but the brain anatomy seems to have been similar to contemporary *Homo*, which could indicate equitable cognitive complexity. ***H. naledi* anatomy indicates that, though they were capable of long distance travel with a humanlike stride and gait, they were more**[arboreal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arboreal%22%20%5Co%20%22Arboreal)**than other *Homo*, better adapted to climbing . Tooth anatomy suggests consumption of gritty foods covered in particulates such as dust or dirt. Though they have not been associated with stone tools or any indication of material culture, they appear to have been dexterous enough to produce and handle tools. The cultural behavior of funerary practices is not impossible for *H. naledi*, and burial in the chamber may have been done to remove decaying bodies from a settlement, prevent scavengers, or due to social bonding and grief.**

[**https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo\_naledi**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homo_naledi)**- assessment factors**