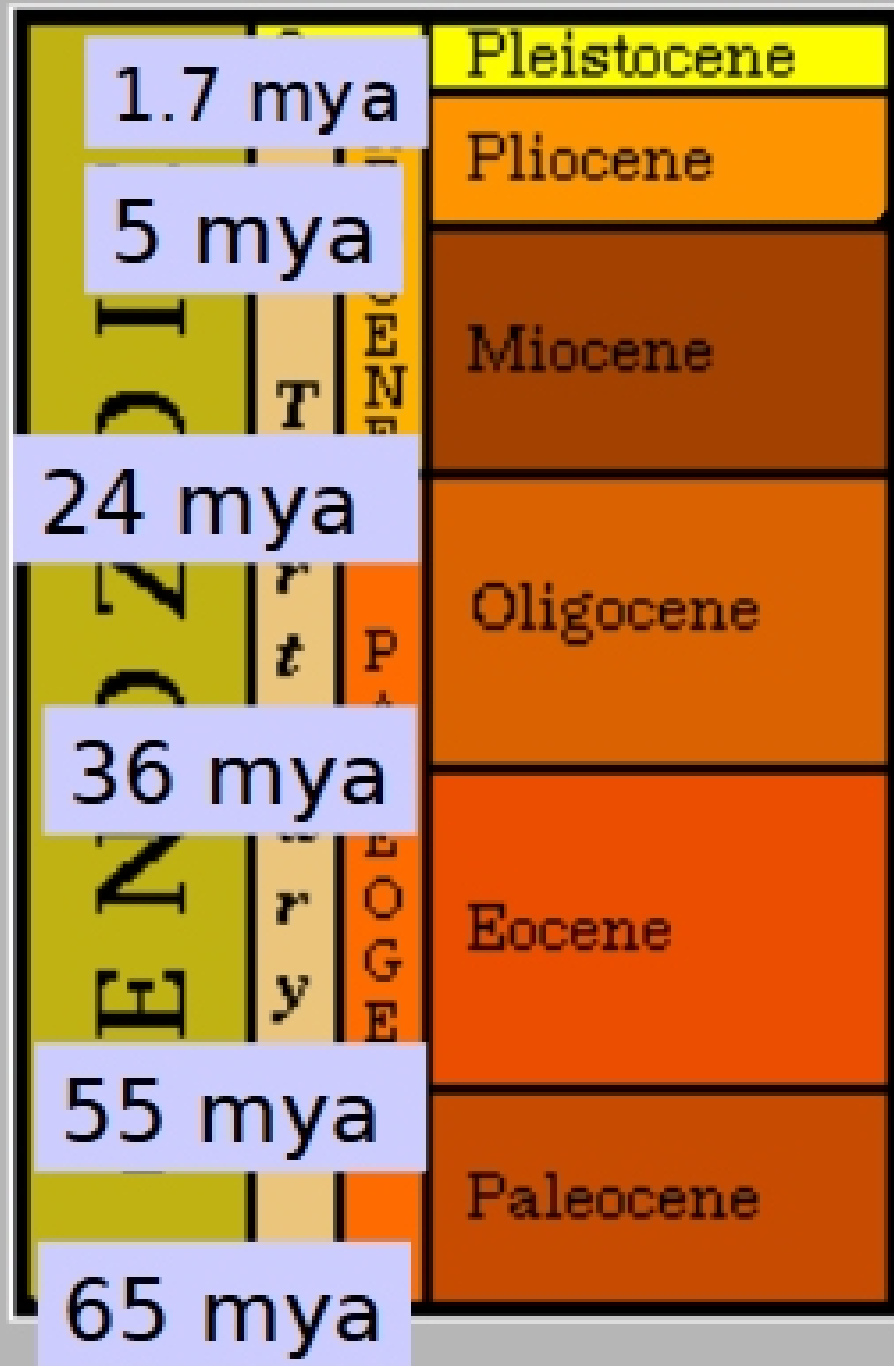


# The Earliest Hominids

Epoch



**Terminal Miocene Event**

**first Hominids**

Cercopithecoid/Hominoid split

Anthropoids proliferate:  
Platyrrhine/Catarrhine split

Late Eocene: *Catopithecus*  
Undisputed primates:  
prosimians proliferate

archaic primates (disputed)  
(Plesiadapiforms)

Late Miocene, 10-5 mya

*Gorilla* lineage splits off around 8 mya

8-4 mya, fossil gap when we have few fossil localities with primate fossils – **Human ancestors split off from chimp ancestors!!!**

Where are we finding fossils of early hominids?



What first set humans apart from other apes?

The earliest human ancestors have a mixture or mosaic of ape-like and human-like characteristics

The first distinctively human character is **bipedal locomotion**

But the **brain** remained the **size of apes**