



FACTS ABOUT KENYA

- Kenya has the largest number of fossil human remains apprx. 1000 individuals than any other country in Africa.
- Kenya has the oldest human remains going back to 7 million year old from Tugen Hills, Baringo (oldest in Ethiopia = 4.5 million years; S.Africa ca 3 million years, Tanzania = 2 million years).
- Kenya has some of the most complete skeletons e.g Turkana Boy (1.6 Million years), which provided a great wealth of information regarding early human physiology than anywhere in the world.
- Kenya is endowed with many prehistory sites scattered all along the Rift Valley (north to south) and western Kenya.
- Kenya has many earliest ape sites particularly in western Kenya. These apes are ancestors for earliest humans. Ethiopia has just a handful of these earliest sites thus making Kenya the probable place where transition from ape-like to human-like beings occurred.
- Kenya has the longest and most complete record of human evolution (and possibly the link between humans and apes).
- There is a huge collection in regards to prehistory finds. Kenya actually has the largest collection of human related fossils anywhere in the world. This collection is well documented and can be found in one central place- NMK Headquarters
- Not only are all species of hominids represented but also some other faunal and plant species that relate to the evolutionary theory (e.g. elephants, giraffes, crocodiles and even the dinosaurs).
- In addition to the fossil record, there is a long record of technological evolution (with tools as old as 2.3 million years).
- There is a wide environmental representation (open and closed sites) in regards to evidence of fossils and tools. Each region in Kenya has a story to tell in regards to the story of human origin. Varied environments that may have been instrumental in the evolution of both humans and other species.
- There is a wide genetic representation among some of its people (Turkana) pointing to the fact that humans have been here for a very long time.
- There is a connection with the Far East through the Red Sea where humans are believed to have dispersed from to other regions of the world.

- There is evidence of other factors that relate to the evolution of humans (e.g. humanity made fire as far back as 1.8 Myrs, footprints at 1.55myrs).
- The study of human evolution began in the early 20th century and continues to present.
Kenya has about 20 Miocene (23.03 million years ago -ma to 5.3 Ma) sites while Ethiopia has only two at the moment.