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Q2(a)

Discuss major species of Australopithecus discovered from South and East Africa. Describe the discovery, physical features and significance of Taung baby.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2023 · Anthropology GS 1 · 20 marks · Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa

(a) Plio-pleistocene hominids in South and East Africa-Australopithecines.

Facts & figures for this PYQ only.

Numbers move. Confirm the latest Budget, Economic Survey or census round. This sheet is for revision, not a substitute for the model answer.

<https://wrapexams.com/upsc/mains-answers/anthropology-gs-1/2023/discuss-major-species-of-australopithecus-discovered-from-south-and-east-africa-describe-the-discovery-physical-features-and-significance-of-taung-baby/>

Raymond Dart, 1925

Named *Australopithecus africanus* from the Taung child in Nature and argued for African hominin status.

Lucy (AL 288-1)

Partial *A. afarensis* skeleton from Hadar, Ethiopia, showing bipedal pelvis and small brain.

Laetoli footprints

Pliocene tracks in Tanzania reported by Mary Leakey's team, attributed to bipedal australopiths.

Australopithecus sediba

Malapa, South Africa, described by Lee Berger's team, with a mosaic of australopith and Homo-like traits.

Mrs Ples

Adult Sterkfontein cranium recovered by Robert Broom that supported Dart's child as a real taxon.

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