

# Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind

Timeline of History

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Year Before the Present	
13.8 billion	Matter and energy appear. Beginning of physics. Atoms and molecules appear. Beginning of chemistry.
4.5 billion	Formation of planet Earth.
3.8 billion	Emergence of organisms. Beginning of biology.
6 million	Last common grandmother of humans and chimpanzees.
2.5 million	Humans evolve in Africa. First stone tools.
2 million	Humans spread from Africa to Eurasia. Evolution of different human species.
500,000	Neanderthals evolve in Europe and the Middle East.
300,000	Daily usage of re.
200,000	Homō sapiens evolves in East Africa.
70,000	The Cognitive Revolution. Emergence of ctive language. Beginning of history. Sapiens spread out of Africa.
45,000	Sapiens settle Australia. Extinction of Australian megafauna.
30,000	Extinction of Neanderthals.
16,000	Sapiens settle America. Extinction of American megafauna.
13,000	Extinction of Homō sapiens the only surviving human species.
12,000	The Agricultural Revolution. Domestication of plants and animals. Permanent settlements.
5,000	First kingdoms, script and money. Polytheistic religions.
4,250	First empire – the Akkadian Empire of Sargon.
2,500	Invention of coinage – a universal money. The Persian Empire – a universal political order ‘for the bene t of all humans’. Buddhism in India – a universal truth ‘to liberate all beings from suffering’.
2,000	Han Empire in China. Roman Empire in the Mediterranean. Christianity.
1,400	Islam.
500	The Scientific Revolution. Humankind admits its ignorance and begins to acquire unprecedented power. Europeans begin to conquer America and the oceans. The entire planet becomes a single historical arena. The rise of capitalism.
200	The Industrial Revolution. Family and community are replaced by state and market. Massive extinction of plants and animals.
The Present	Humans transcend the boundaries of planet Earth. Nuclear weapons threaten the survival of humankind. Organisms are increasingly shaped by intelligent design rather than natural selection.
The Future	Intelligent design becomes the basic principle of life? First nonorganic life forms? Homō sapiens replaced by superhumans?