

Human Evolution

The Oxford debate 1860

Thomas Henry Huxley, nicknamed 'Darwin's bulldog', was championing Charles Darwin's revolutionary concept of evolution by natural selection, published less than a year before. Samuel 'Soapy Sam' Wilberforce, Bishop of Oxford, brought all the force of his theological training to upholding the idea of biblical creation. Both sides claimed victory, and the debate continues to this very day.

Huxley - "would sooner claim kindred with an Ape than with a man like the Bishopp. Who made so ill a use of his wonderful speaking powers to try and burke, by a display of authority, a free discussion on what was, or was not, a matter of truth"

Paleoanthropological story – Lucy

During the 1960s and 1970s, hundreds of fossils were found, particularly in East Africa in the regions of the Olduvai gorge and Lake Turkana.

The driving force in the East African researches was the Leakey family, with Louis Leakey and his wife Mary Leakey, and later their son Richard and daughter-in-law Meave being among the most successful fossil hunters and paleoanthropologists.

They found "Lucy", the most complete fossil member of the species *Australopithecus afarensis*.

