



**THESE ARE THE GENERAL FACTS OF HUMAN EVOLUTION:-**

- 1.** Human-like fossils have been found in rocks, caves, dry lakes, glaciers, and other sites
- 2.** Some fossils have been found inside caves, while others have been found near building remains
- 3.** These fossils have been found in different spots around the world
- 4.** These fossils have been found in a variety of rock types and at varying depths
- 5.** Most fossils have been found as scattered bits and pieces
- 6.** Only a tiny number of complete skeletons have been found
- 7.** There is a great deal of variety in these human-like fossils
- 8.** Tools that could have been made by humans have been found with many of these fossils
- 9.** The tools have been constructed of various materials – stone, bone, wood, antler and metal
- 10.** The age of fossils and materials older than recorded history (about 2,500 years) are not known
- 11.** Fossils and materials of unknown age have dates estimated using indirect methods

*SOURCE: Ian Tattersall (1995), "The Fossil Trail: How we know what we think we know about human evolution", Oxford University Press: New York*

Some of Ian Tattersall's words and phrases that he uses to describe the scientific developments that other books and journals describe as "facts". Notice that they are all ways of saying, "This is what we guess".

a big if	depending on how you interpret
a consensus emerged	developed a model
a debateable point	disagreement
a well-argued alternative	discern
a wide margin of error	does not predict
almost a foregone conclusion	dogma
alternative scenario	doubts were voiced
anybody's guess	envisioned
assuming	estimate
assumption	explained
bandwagon	factors argue against this view
believes	feel
cause an outcry	felt it most likely
challenge	generalising
circumstantial evidence	hard not to conclude
cogent reasons	hard to avoid the conclusion
coloured interpretation	has been disputed
concluded	hazarded
considered to be	highly implausible
contentious subject	highly probable
controversy	his view
debateable	historical interpretation
decided	hypotheses

**"..... in the present state of our knowledge, I do not believe it is possible to fit the known hominid [human-like] fossils into a reliable pattern."**

Written by world-renowned palaeontologist Mary Leakey,  
in "Disclosing the Past", Doubleday & Co: New York, 1984 p:214