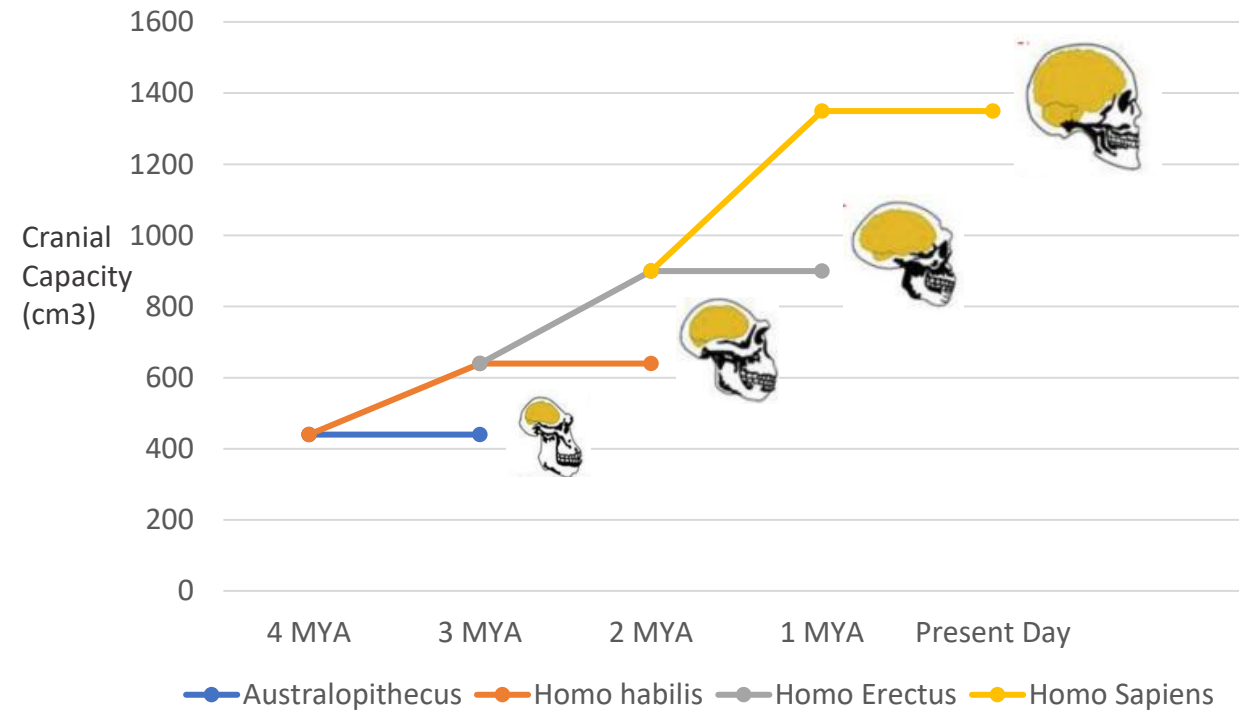


The Origins of Language

Aria Anderson

Theory suggests that there is a link between the evolution of language and encephalization (increase in brain size). It is suggested that the need for larger social groups was the driving force behind these evolutionary advancements.

Growth in Cranial Capacity



The fossil of a hyoid bone found in an adolescent *A. Afarensis* indicates chimp-like vocal communication amongst these early hominins.

It is theorised that due to the advancement in stone tools from Oldowan to Acheulean, and the increase in cranial capacity, that a rudimentary language code may have existed among the *H. Erectus*. This would date the origins of language back to the Middle Pleistocene era.



One theory explores a parallel between gossip and the practice of social grooming among primate societies, ultimately suggesting that the function of gossip is a key instigator in the development of spoken language, reinforcing the link between social group sizes and language.

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