


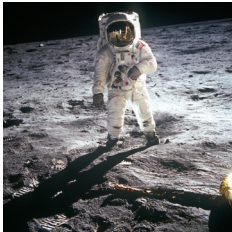



Table 3.1 One Million Years of Human History Compressed Into One 80-Year Lifetime

Approximate Time	Age	Event in Human History	
2.5 million years ago	Birth	<i>Homo habilis</i> is born—the first ancestor to make/use tools and have culture; evidence of sharing food, congregating, and probably sharing housing	 <small>istockphoto.com/markhenix</small>
2 million years ago	2 years old	<i>Homo erectus</i> shows early evidence of family structures; findings of longer life spans and three generations alive simultaneously	
15,000 years ago	79 years old	Six months ago: North America settled by early humans, hunters and gatherers	
11,000 years ago	79 years old	Five months ago: In the Middle East, the first agricultural communities, indicating food cultivation	
10,000 years ago	79 years old	Twenty weeks ago: the last ice age is over; humans spread more widely over the planet	 <small>istockphoto.com/jius99</small>
5,000 years ago	79 years old	Ten weeks ago: humans began to cast and use metals and built the pyramids	
2,000 years ago	79 years old	Seven weeks ago: beginning of the Common Era (under the Holy Roman Empire)	 <small>Library of Congress, Prints &amp; Photographs Division, LC-DIG-spans-00002</small> <small>Library of Congress</small>
220 years ago	79 years old	Two and a half weeks ago: the United States began a new experiment with democracy	
100 years ago	79 years old	Yesterday morning: the airplane was invented	
30–50 years ago	80th birthday	Yesterday afternoon: humans first set foot on the moon; after dinner, we broke the DNA (genetic) code and invented the first cell phone	<div><div> <small>NASA</small></div><div> <small>© istockphoto.com/pagadesign</small></div></div>