

eFOSSILS > Life Size Printout

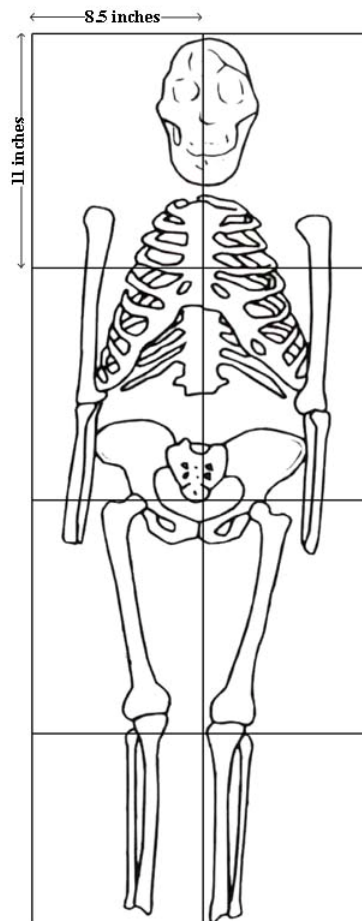
"Lucy", Adult *Australopithecus afarensis*

Understanding the human skeleton is important for learning about human anatomy and human evolution. Some of the defining characteristics for modern humans include our height and our skeletal adaptations for bipedalism. Some of these adaptations can be seen in earlier fossil hominins, which suggests they may be our early ancestors.

Lucy, also known as AL288-1, is an adult female of the species *Australopithecus afarensis*. She is important to the understanding of human evolution because she is 3.2 million years old and shows many features that look very human and retains others that look very ape-like. She shows adaptations for both bipedalism (i.e., walking on the ground on two legs) and arboreality (i.e., living in trees).

This printout will help you learn about the skeleton and identify some of the important features of Lucy's skeletal anatomy.

This document contains an outline of Lucy's reconstructed skeleton, standing at 107 cm tall (3'6" tall) - her actual height. To compare, modern humans average a height of 107 cm between 5 and 6 years of age. The average height for a modern human adult female is 162 centimeters (or 5'3") tall. An adult male today usually stands about 175 centimeters (5'7") tall.



Instructions for Printing Life Size Printout:

1. Print pages 3 through 10 of this document on standard 8 ½" x 11" pages (portrait).
 - Note: using a higher printing resolution will improve the quality of the images.
2. Trim the pages along the black lines provided.
3. Assemble the full picture (as illustrated to the left) on the floor or by taping on the wall, chalkboard, etc.
4. Try to identify the different bones. Remember, most of the bones in the body are paired. This means the same bone will be found on each side of the body.
5. Compare the height of Lucy's skeleton on the printout with the printout of a modern human juvenile and your own height. Think about the differences between the skeletons.
6. Have fun and learn!

Shaded portions represent
the recovered fossil material.
White portions are reconstructed elements.



©eFossils 2007

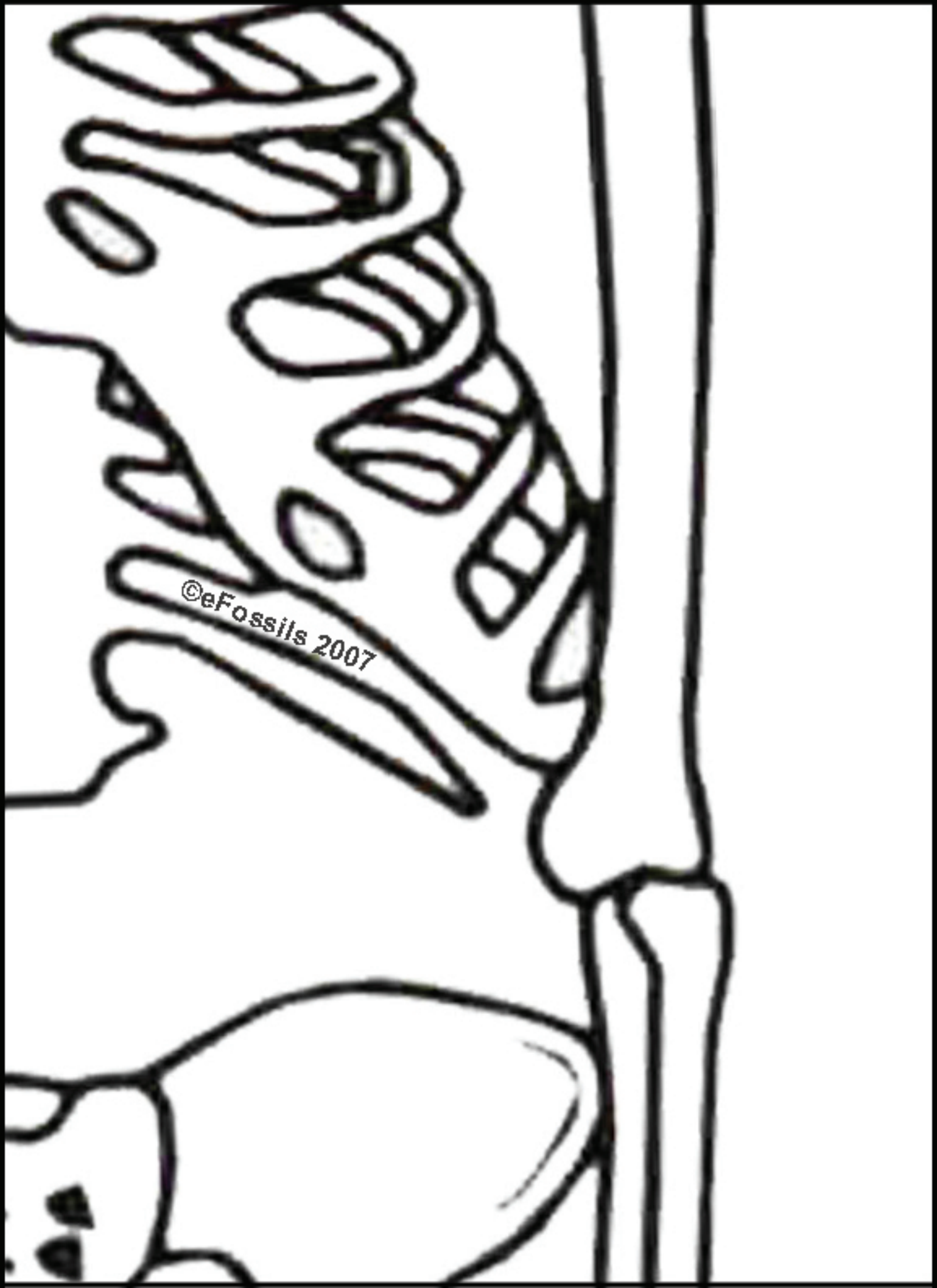


©eFossils 2007





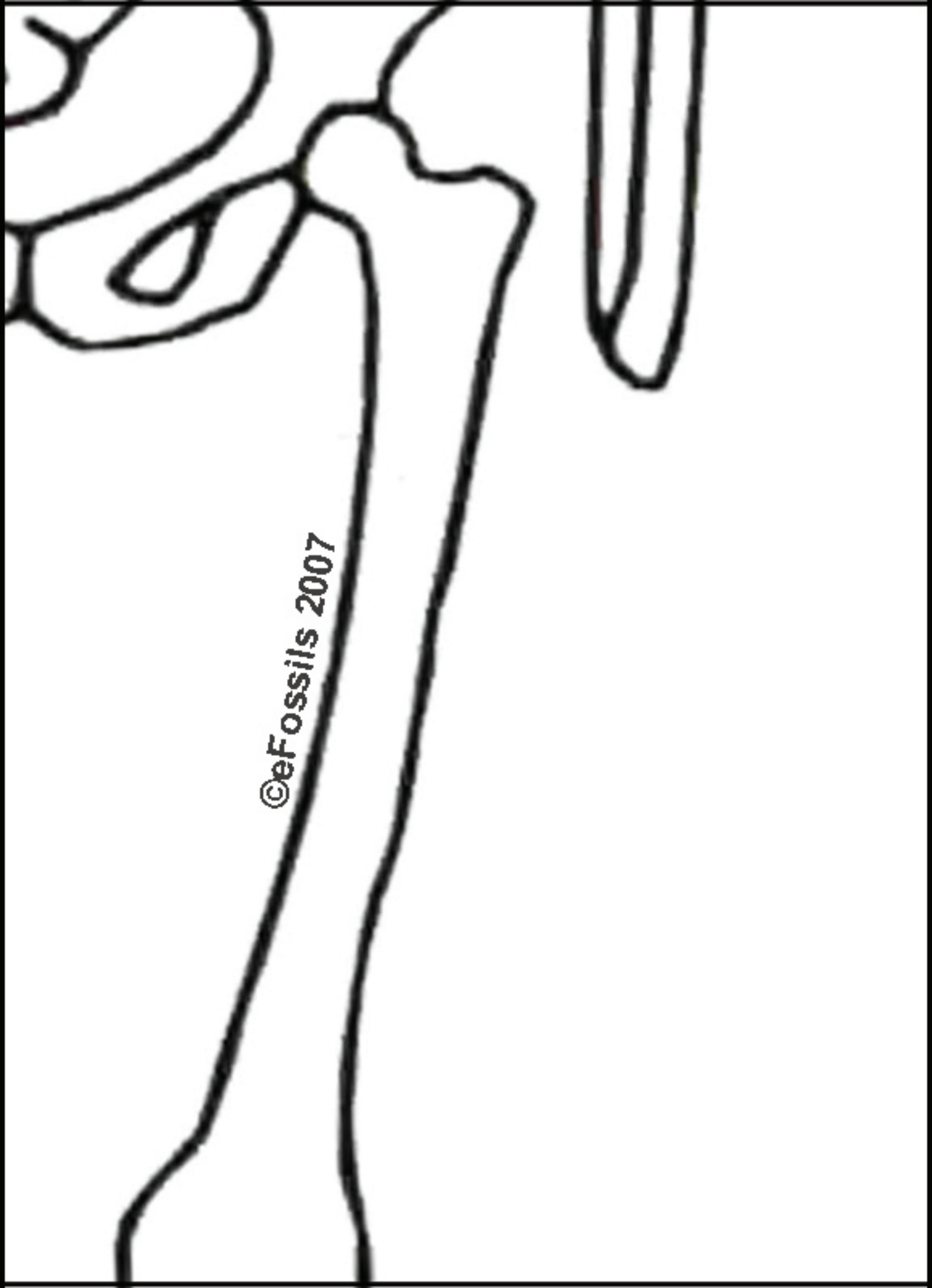
©eFossils 2007



©eFossils 2007



©eFossils 2007

A black and white line drawing of a fossil specimen, possibly a plant stem or root. The drawing shows a central, elongated, slightly curved structure with a bulbous base and a narrower, tapering top. To the left, there are several smaller, rounded, and somewhat irregular shapes, possibly representing other parts of the specimen or surrounding structures. The drawing is simple and schematic, focusing on the overall shape and structure of the fossil.

©eFossils 2007



©eFossils 2007



©eFossils 2007