

## Stones & Bones

Fill in the blanks from the answers at the bottom of the page.

*Each answer may only be used once*

Evolution's the solution to the data that we find when we study bones and fossils, and we keep an open mind. Paleontologists, biologists, and others A to Z write the chapters of a story that tells how we came to be. In the rubble of a starburst some four \_\_\_\_\_ years ago formed the kernel of a planet that became the earth we know.

Stegosaurus, Oviraptor, and Tyrannosaurus Rex roamed this planet earth before us so their skeletons attest. Back two hundred fifty million years, as near as we can gauge, dawned the era of the dinosaur, the \_\_\_\_\_ Age. Through Triassic, and Jurassic, and Cretaceous days long past, they survived until an \_\_\_\_\_ struck with a mighty blast.

About sixty \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, no, make that sixty-five, with the \_\_\_\_\_ Age, the age of \_\_\_\_\_ would arrive. There were mastodons, and woolly mammoths, platypuses, too, and some \_\_\_\_\_ who one day would look a lot like me and you. From the Pliocene and Pleistocene down to the modern age, we find stones and bones and artifacts to fill another page.

Some four million years ago, or so, a \_\_\_\_\_ stood tall, started walking on its own two feet and found it didn't fall. And as time went by a \_\_\_\_\_ put its hand to making tools. And soon many others followed for, you see, they were not fools. But Australopiths, Neandertals, our cousins you might say, who contrived to thrive for many years cannot be found today.

Now the study of the DNA in mitochondria lets us trace our common mother back to Eastern \_\_\_\_\_. Just a hundred \_\_\_\_\_ years, or two, have passed, it seems the case, since that very first appearance of the modern human race. Species \_\_\_\_\_ of the genus \_\_\_\_\_, yes, that means we're smart. You can hear it in our language, you can see it in our art.

Though our story's still unfolding and its puzzles are not solved, we can now begin to picture how the human race \_\_\_\_\_. And although we cannot know how many years we have in store, we will need two hundred million more to match the dinosaur.

<b>Homo sapiens</b>	<b>Africa</b>	<b>biped</b>	<b>thousand</b>	<b>million</b>	<b>Mesozoic</b>	<b>mammals</b>
<b>evolved</b>	<b>big apes</b>	<b>asteroid</b>	<b>Cenozoic</b>	<b>quadruped</b>	<b>billion</b>	<b>evolved</b>