

## MIDDLE MAN

According to its discoverers, *A. sediba*'s odd blend of primitive and modern traits make it an intriguing candidate for the immediate ancestor of *Homo*. "It's the ultimate look at a species in transition," says paleoanthropologist Lee Berger. "And it's transitioning toward humans."



SIMILARITIES WITH AUSTRALOPITHS	SIMILARITIES WITH HOMO
Small brain size <b>1</b>	<b>7</b> Front of brain reorganized
Long, high cheekbones <b>2</b>	<b>8</b> Projecting nose
Primitive molar cusps <b>3</b>	<b>9</b> Smaller teeth and chewing muscles
Small body size <b>4</b>	<b>10</b> Hips less flared, similar to humans
Long upper limbs <b>5</b>	<b>11</b> Longer legs
Primitive heel bone <b>6</b>	<b>12</b> Hand with precision grip

SOURCES: LEE R. BERGER, UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND; DARRYL DE RUITER, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY