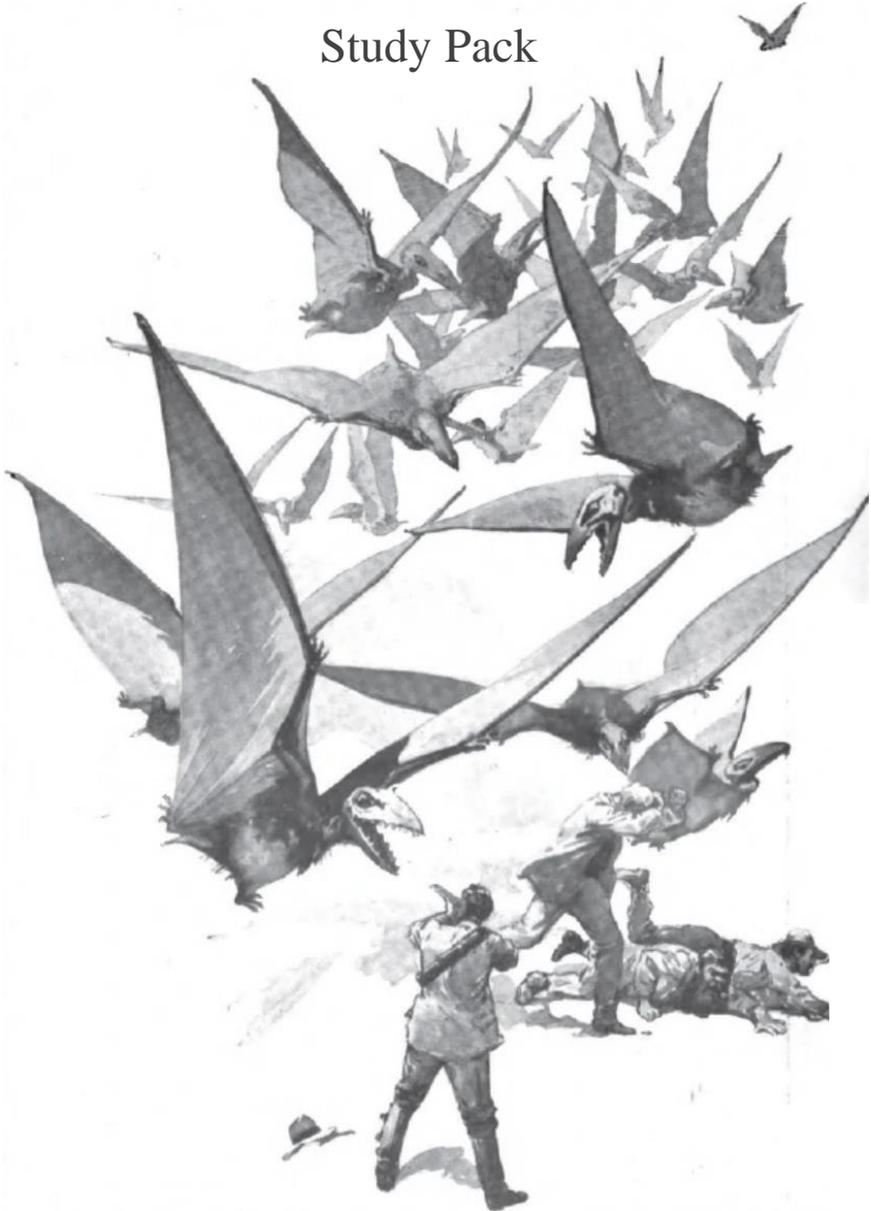




CONAN
DOYLE
COLLECTION

The Lost World

Study Pack



“CHALLENGER FELL, AND AS I STOOPED TO PICK HIM UP I WAS AGAIN STRUCK FROM BEHIND AND DROPPED ON THE TOP OF HIM.”

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Introduction

'The Lost World' is a highly influential science fiction novel written by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and published in 1912. The story is one which suspends the ordinary laws of nature and submerges you, instead, in a prehistoric landscape, hidden deep within the South American rainforest where the great dinosaurs of the past continue to survive – claws and all. The novel follows the exploration of the notoriously outspoken Professor Challenger, a young reporter Edward Malone, Challenger's professional rival Professor Summerly, and the classic adventurer Lord John Roxton as they struggle for survival faced with a catalogue of dangerous and ... extinct species. Since its publication, 'The Lost World' has proven to be one of Doyle's most influential works, well and truly establishing dinosaurs in the public imagination and inspiring a great deal of successive science fiction. To create this novel, Doyle drew inspiration from a wide range of sources, including earlier science fiction, historic travel accounts, fossil finds near his own home, and the catalytic theories of evolution and palaeontology. In fact, Doyle's 'Lost World' can be seen to closely follow scientific debates which raged at the time, while also contributing to them in several different and highly influential ways. His work can thus be used as a lens through which to examine highly significant scientific theories which gripped not only the academic community, but the lives and culture of those living in Victorian England at the time. This study pack will delve into these issues, looking at several aspects of the Victorian world through the gaze of Conan Doyle and his understanding of popular opinion. It will also cover the mysteries and scandals potentially inspired by the novel as well as allowing a look into the real lost world, open for your own adventure.



Dinosaurs in Popular Culture

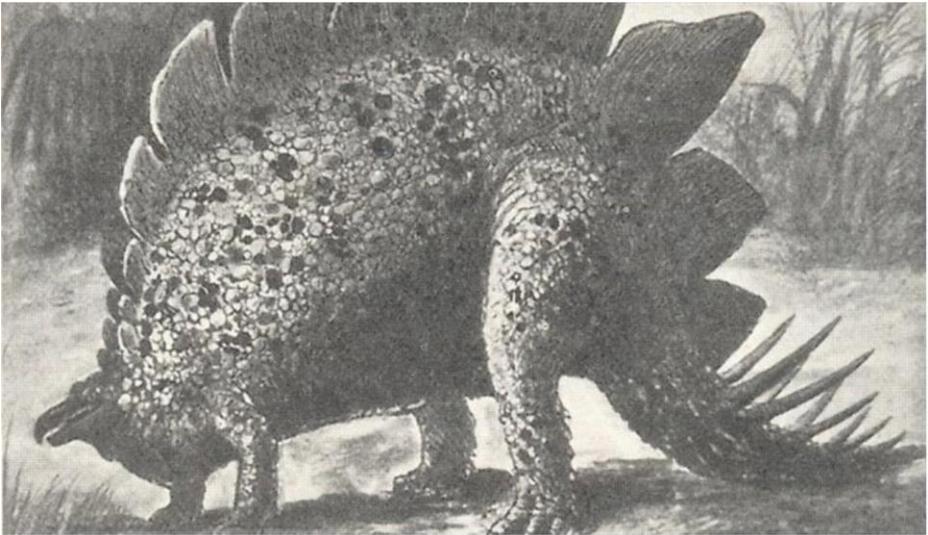


Figure 1: Illustration of a dinosaur from The Lost World

By the middle of the 19th century, dinosaur remains had already begun receiving considerable attention in both the scientific world and in public imagination. During this time, the study of dinosaurs was closely linked to geology - a relatively new scientific discipline, and the first science which outwardly undermined the biblical idea of creation as occurring some few thousand years ago. Since their discovery, dinosaurs have continuously captured public imagination, making them a favourite for novelists and film makers. With their massive size, bizarre appearance, and arsenal of deadly natural weapons it is easy to see why. In 'The Lost World', Conan Doyle capitalised on all of these traits, creating a hugely popular novel which has gone on to have a lasting effect, not only on succeeding writers and film makers, but also on the general populace. Conan Doyle was not, however, the first novelist to incorporate dinosaurs into popular fiction. This was, in fact, Jules Verne in his publication 'Journey to the Centre of the Earth' (1873) which recounts the story of three explorers as they discover a

vast underground world filled with prehistoric life. It has been suggested however, that it was Doyle's interpretation of the dinosaur in science fiction, which had the greatest effect on their widespread popularity. Since the novel was published, there have been seven film adaptations, including the first full-length animated science fiction film which was released in 1925. It is this film which has also been said to have inspired the script for the hugely popular 1997 sequel to 1993's 'Jurassic Park' ('The Lost World: Jurassic Park'). Doyle's Lost World can therefore be described as an incredibly influential piece of work, which truly established dinosaurs in fiction and inspired a great precedent for the future of science fiction.

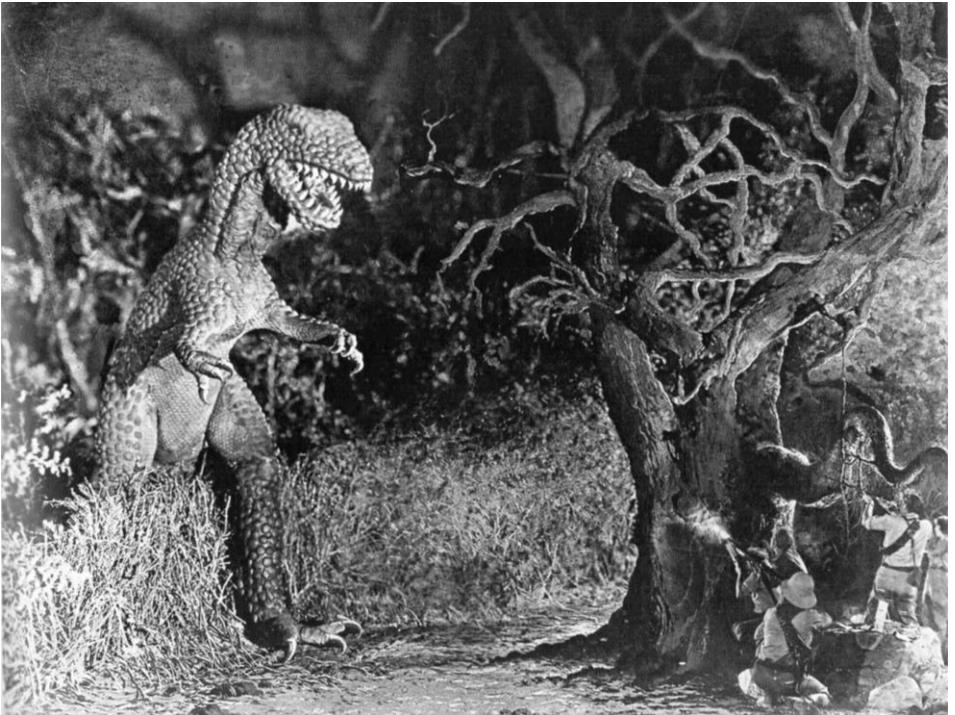
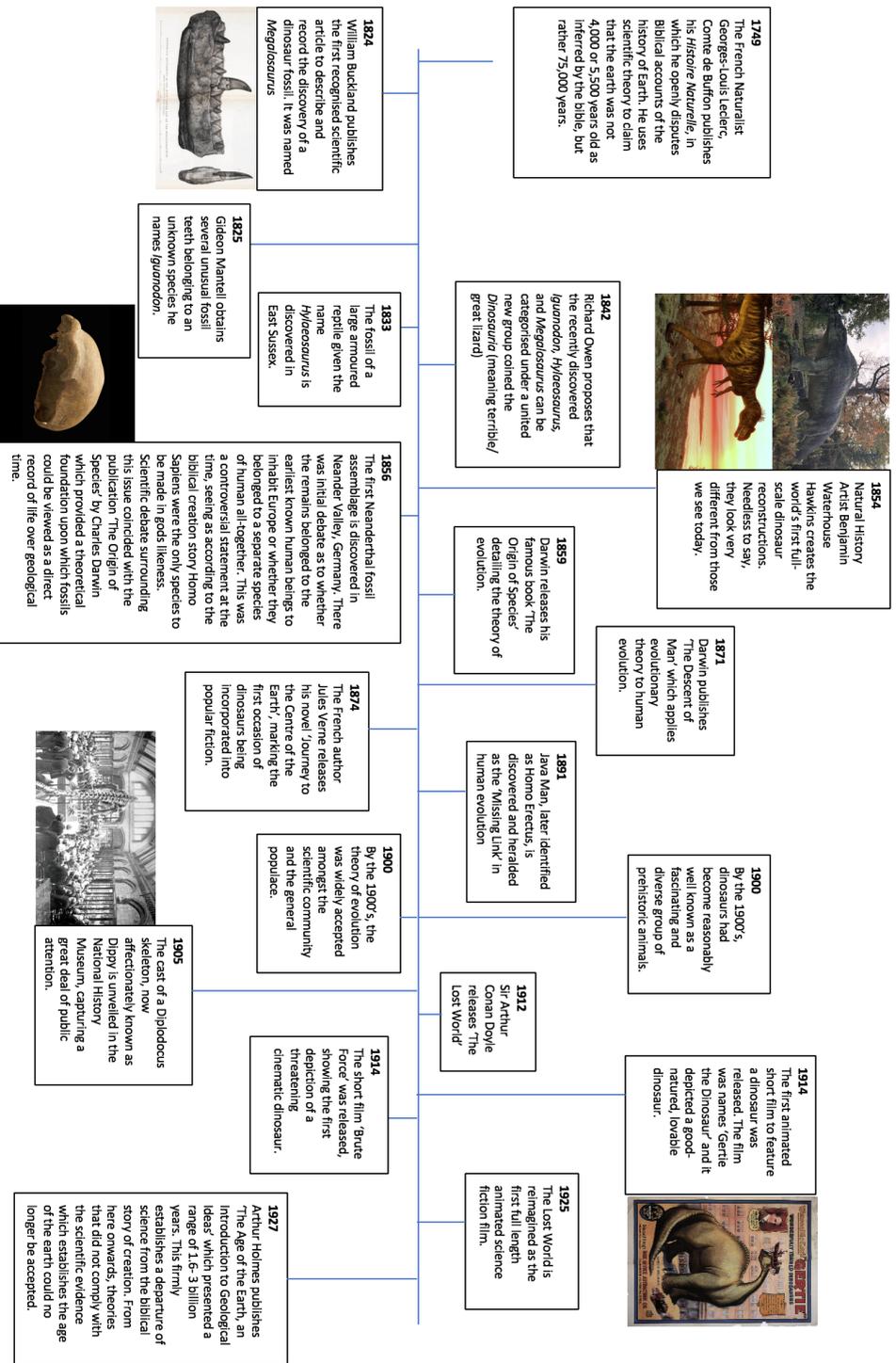


Figure 2: Still from the 1925 film 'The Lost World' based on the Novel by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Timeline of Relevant Scientific and Cultural Events Surrounding the Publication of The Lost World



The 19th and early 20th century was a pivotal time in scientific discovery, and an era which would make a monumental impact upon what people thought about the world and their place within it. In 1824, the first dinosaur remains were discovered, although it was not until 1842 that they were formally recognised as such. During this time, the study of dinosaurs was closely linked to that of Geology, which openly undermined the story of creation as occurring some thousand years ago. It is likely that debate surrounding this issue also paved the way for a rise of evolutionary theory, first published by Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace in 1859. The impact and importance of evolutionary theory cannot be understated - it was not simply a new idea but an embodiment of a fresh new spirit, which was not afraid to challenge traditional authorities in its search for the origins and natural order of the world. Such ideas would have been highly influential at all levels of society, and it is unlikely that anyone living in Britain at the time of Conan Doyle would be unaffected by this monumental adjustment in worldview. This is translated incredibly well throughout 'The Lost World', which seamlessly combines a gripping adventure plot with close look at scientific concepts and debates of his time.

Quiz

Name the two publications written by Charles Darwin detailing the theory of evolution.

.....

In which year were the first Neanderthal remains discovered?

.....

The discovery of dinosaurs was initially associated with which new scientific field?

.....

Charles Darwin and which other British naturalist independently conceived and published the theory of evolution through natural selection in 1859?

.....

Name the first three species of dinosaur to be identified by academics

.....

Java Man, discovered in 1891 and heralded the 'missing link', was later discovered to belong to which evolutionary relative of Homo Sapiens?

.....

What was the name of the first author to publish a novel which incorporated dinosaurs into popular fiction

.....

Name some of the influences Arthur Conan Doyle turned to when writing 'The Lost World'

.....

The Lost World in Context

Christianity

'It was surely well for man that he came late in the order of creation. There were powers abroad in earlier days which no courage and no mechanism of his could have met. What could his sling, his throwing stick, or his arrow avail him against such forces as have been loose tonight?'

Conan Doyle 'The Lost World' Pg. 118

'Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.'

Genesis 1:26



Figure 3: Illustration of a dinosaur at the lake from 'The Lost World'.

By the early 20th century, the time in which 'The Lost World' was first published, evolutionary theory had been largely accepted across much of Britain. In fact, as Doyle recounts in his memoirs 'Memories and Adventures' (1924): 'these were the years when Huxley, Tyndall, Darwin, Herbert Spencer and John Stuart Mill were our chief philosophers, and even the man in the street felt the strong sweeping current of thought'. Evolution, however, was not just a new scientific theory, it challenged almost everything Christian Britain believed about the world and mankind's place within it. Most obviously, the one inherent implication of evolutionary theory was that it required an almost total upheaval of the biblical story of creation. Previously, mankind was placed at the pinnacle of the 'Great Chain of Being', made in the image of God himself at the beginning of time to master all the other creatures of the world. With the revolutionary findings of the 19th century, however, the timeline of the world was greatly extended, and humans instead found themselves not at the beginning of creation, but in a much more peripheral position. Doyle's lost world (or Lost World)shows how modern science, especially evolutionary thinking, both questions and reaffirms the ontological status of mankind. It is also a highly valuable resource in understanding the Victorian perception of prehistoric life which appears to reflect deeper ideological conflicts persisting during this time. Within the fictionalised 'Lost World', it seems clear, initially, that modern humans are not the dominant species in Maple White land and are in fact scarcely able to survive against the beasts of the past. Immediately this contradicts the idea that humans find themselves at the top of the 'Great Chain of Being'. By the end of the novel, however, the mental power of the modern British man overcomes the physical power of prehistoric monsters to become the pinnacle of life on earth: 'Now, upon this plateau the future must ever be for man' (Pg.173). This can be seen as confirmation of the Victorian progressive world view which stated that the world naturally progressed from physical to mental power, in which the modern British man was surely the peak and most impressive specimen. Thus, man is reinstated in its traditional position as the pinnacle of life on earth. 'The Lost World' can, therefore, be

seen as conforming to decisively Victorian interpretations of Christianity, albeit disguised in the wrapping of modern evolutionary theory. This may go some way towards explaining the popularity of the novel during this era as it introduced the public to the wonders of prehistoric life, without lumbering them with doubt about their own place in the world or in their faith in traditional Christian teachings. In fact, quite the opposite – the belief in human superiority is reinforced and Christian beliefs upheld.

British Colonialism

‘At the end of the victorious campaign the surviving ape-folk were driven across the plateau (their wailings were horrible) and established in the neighbourhood of the Indian caves, where they would, from now onwards, be a servile race under the eyes of their masters’

Conan Doyle ‘The Lost World’ pg.174

Also noticeable within the novel are the ideals of British Colonialism, an ideology which was commonplace during the Victorian era and often highly damaging to those it subjugated. Briefly summarised, the story of ‘The Lost World’ denotes a group of British men travelling to a distant country and finding a new world as yet untouched by outside influences. They then begin cheerfully exterminating or enslaving many within, before imposing modern British order upon the landscape, ensuring that modern man forever found his ‘allotted place’. Sound familiar? In addition, the native humans are clearly depicted benefiting from this encounter, thus reaffirming colonial justifications which state that it is the duty of the ‘civilised world’ to ‘liberate’ those who don’t live according to British ideals. In this sense Doyle once again reflects Victorian culture within his writing, appearing to celebrate the British Empire’s ‘civilising mission’ while

romanticising the often brutal treatment of native populations under its rule. Doyle's writing can thus be seen a window through which one may examine the ways Victorian ideology affected all aspects of popular culture, including the internal beliefs of those who produced it.

Want to learn more?

Academic Journal

(search online through Google Scholar or JSTOR):

Lampadius, S. 2012: Evolutionary ideas in Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*. In: P. Lang, Der andere Conan Doyle: Internationale Tagung am 20. Und 21. Mai 2011 in Leipzig. Frankfurt. 68-97.

Web links

Religion in Victorian England:

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-england/victorian/religion/>

British Colonialism:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/topics/reference/colonialism/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zf7fr82/revision/1>

The Real Lost World



Figure 4: Mount Roraima. The real lost world.

Doyle's choice of South America for the location of Maple White Land casts back to an extraordinary legacy of scientific discovery within the region. For individuals such as Charles Darwin, Alfred Russel Wallace and Henry Walter Bates, South America was a catalytic place in the development of evolutionary theory. Darwin's travels around South America for more than three years provided many insights into the workings of nature and would ultimately lead to the publication of *'Origins of Species'* (1859) and *'The Descent of Man'* (1871). Conan Doyle was not merely aware of these facts, he explicitly presents these scientists as the precursors of Challenger's expedition and harks back to their research several times throughout the novel.

'Both Summerlee and Challenger possessed that highest type of bravery, the bravery of the scientific mind. Theirs was the spirit which

upheld Darwin among the gauchos of Argentine or Wallace among the head-hunters of Malaya.'

Conan Doyle, *The Lost World*



Figure 5: Eerily Jurassic and hauntingly beautiful - the 'jacuzzi' landscape of Mount Roraima.

The lost world that Conan Doyle creates as the basis for this novel, exists upon a mountain plateau, entirely isolated from the surrounding world. Here, the 'ordinary laws of nature' can be 'suspended' and remarkable creatures, which would otherwise have gone extinct, continue to thrive. While, to the best of our knowledge, no such landscape currently exists outside the world of fiction, South America does offer many distinct and isolated habitats, within which entirely unique plant and animal species have developed. In the late 1830's, the German Botanist Schomburgk discovered a series of isolated flat-topped mountains within a region in Venezuela. One of the most fascinating, was Mount Roraima, described in 1877 as 'one of the greatest marvels of the earth'. Indeed, Mount Roraima, is a lost and isolated world, almost entirely unchanged from its appearance several million years ago. On such a plateau, it is easy to imagine a world stuck in an evolutionary time bubble, harbouring extinct species and natural

wonders. In 1884, Everard im Thurn, a British Botanist reached the summit of Roraima and although there were no signs of dinosaurs, he did discover several hitherto unknown species along with striking landscapes and ancient waterfalls.

Around one fifth of the plateau is covered by water, forming bright pink puddles, peat swamps, rivers and pristine lakes along with natural tubs with crystal bottoms known as Jacuzzis. Some of this water, can



Figure 6: Not quite a pterodactyl but just as carnivorous: the endemic pitcher plant found only on mount Roraima.

also be seen cascading from the breath-taking cliffs at the base of the plateau, forming some of the oldest waterfalls on earth. Upon the

summit, a remarkable 35% of species are believed to be unique to that place, evolving entirely independently over millions of years. One example is the carnivorous pitcher plant, which traps and kills insects using digestive fluids and a typical pitfall trap. In fact, several of the plants present upon Mount Roraima survive through the consumption of insects. Many have described Mount Roraima as an island in the sky, an ancient and mystical rock formation. One which harbours a truly unique world, left untouched by the humans since time began. This is the true lost world - one of Doyle's many inspirations and a region which truly brings to life the story of the Maple White Land.

Want to learn more?

Web Links:

<https://mountroraima.net/>

<https://www.sciencealert.com/welcome-to-mount-roraima-the-floating-island-plateau>

Journal:

Lampadius, S. 2012: Evolutionary ideas in Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*. In: P. Lang, Der andere Conan Doyle: Internationale Tagung am 20. Und 21. Mai 2011 in Leipzig. Frankfurt. 68-97.

The Ape Men



Figure 7: Illustration from the Strand Magazine found alongside the story of 'The Lost World'. Image shows the brutal ape men throwing an Indian over the cliff edge.

'It was a human face – or at least it was far more human than any monkeys I have ever seen. It was long, whitish and blotched with pimples, the nose flattened and the lower jaw projecting, with a bristle of coarse whiskers around the chin. The eyes which were under thick and heavy brows, were bestial and ferocious, and as it opened its mouth to snarl what sounded like a curse at me I observed that it had curved, sharp canine teeth. For an instant I read hatred and menace in the evil eyes.'

Conan Doyle, The Lost World Pg. 127

'I called them apes, but they carried sticks and stones in their hands and jabbered talk to each other, and ended up by tying our hands with creepers, so they are ahead of any beast that I have seen in my wanderin's. Ape-men – that's what they are – Missin' Links, and I wish they had stayed missin'.'

Conan Doyle, The Lost World Pg. 149



Figure 8: An early and highly inaccurate reconstruction drawing of a Neanderthal, produced in France in 1909.

Since the publication of Darwin's theory of evolution, in which he argues that modern man is closely related to the Ape, scientists have continuously searched to understand our human ancestors and relatives. Today, while there is still much to discover, we have a far greater understanding of the human family tree, especially when compared to the theories in circulation during Doyle's lifetime. Around this era, human evolution was often envisaged as a hierarchical structure, heavily influenced by The Great Chain of Being which sought to order life according its perceived complexity or ideological value. Thus, human relatives were seen as linear points of progression travelling towards perfection (i.e. modern humans). From these ideas, sprang the search for the 'missing link' which was believed to exhibit features of both an ape and a modern human. Early investigation yielded several, mainly from the species Homo Erectus and Homo Neanderthalensis, more commonly known as the Neanderthals. At the time, the Neanderthals were given a particularly bad reputation, in many ways presented as the poor relation of the human family -

brutish, dim-witted, and biologically closer to the Anthropoid apes than to Homo Sapiens. In many ways, however, these interpretations hinged solely upon the desire to discover a 'missing link' figure combined with deep rooted racial prejudice which sought to compare the shape of the Neanderthal skull first to primitive apes, and then to 'some savage races' as William King stated in his 1864 publication. Such claims lead to depictions of the Neanderthal that resemble the individual seen in figure 8. In contrast to this image, modern investigation has proven Neanderthals to be very similar in both physic and intelligence to a modern human. They can also not be considered an ancestor, instead, they are best described as a close cousin, existing at the same time and occasionally in the same locations as Homo Sapiens, sometimes interacting and even breeding with them. Figure 10 shows a more realistic depiction of what a Neanderthal may have looked like. The misunderstanding of ancient relatives is made even more evident with the description of Doyle's 'Ape-men' which in many



Figure 9: Close up image of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 'Ape-man' as described in 'The Lost World'.

ways resembles the individual seen in figure 8, although there are also

significant differences. Through his sharp and pointy teeth, Doyle's Ape-man immediately evokes the notion of a dangerous predator, an impression that is later confirmed by their violence against the Indians. The Ape-men also have distinctly white skin, in parallel to some other depictions at the time. This is likely a response to a prevailing hypothesis which dominated scientific debate attempting to position Britain as the birthplace of mankind. While the image of the Ape-man described in 'The Lost World' is highly unlikely to resemble anything close to the reality of human life, it is an important tool through which we can examine public understanding of human evolution and the prejudices which may have impacted upon this.

Below is a crossword looking at the different species so far discovered in the human family tree along with the names of several famous archaeological sites or fossils containing their remains. The human family tree can also be seen below. As you can see, there is no singular line of progression but instead a great deal of variation and

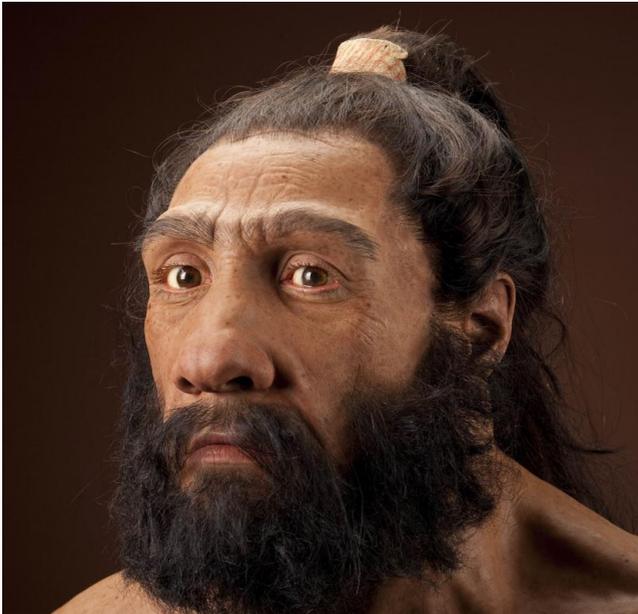


Figure 10: Modern facial reconstruction of a Neanderthal.

evolutionary offshoots. Currently, it is unclear which of these species

acted as our direct ancestors although what do now know is that many of them were highly intelligent and cooperative mammals, some of which would not stand out amongst the crowd had they of existed today.

For more information on human evolution please see:

<https://humanorigins.si.edu/>

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/human-evolution.html>

Crossword

R	U	D	O	L	F	E	N	S	I	S	L	I	M
D	L	A	F	E	R	A	S	S	I	E	P	D	A
M	I	S	S	I	N	G	L	I	N	K	I	E	A
S	D	L	I	H	C	G	N	U	A	T	L	L	M
D	A	N	K	L	I	S	I	T	S	K	T	A	F
H	A	P	A	A	A	I	A	A	I	R	D	N	L
H	A	N	I	A	E	B	S	B	D	F	O	J	O
S	S	B	F	E	H	T	A	U	F	L	W	A	R
I	S	L	I	E	N	Q	R	N	A	A	N	V	I
S	E	A	E	L	L	S	A	D	A	R	M	A	S
P	N	S	N	F	I	E	B	F	L	L	A	M	B
H	D	L	O	R	F	S	D	S	Z	S	N	A	A
R	A	D	I	N	A	H	S	G	N	E	S	N	D
G	A	E	N	E	A	N	D	E	R	T	H	A	L

QAFZEH
 HABILIS
 TABUN
 PILTDOWN MAN
 FLORISBAD
 TAUNG CHILD
 RUDOLFENSIS
 NALEDI
 LA FERASSIE
 NEANDERTHAL
 SHANIDAR
 JAVA MAN
 SAPIENS
 MISSING LINK

Family Tree

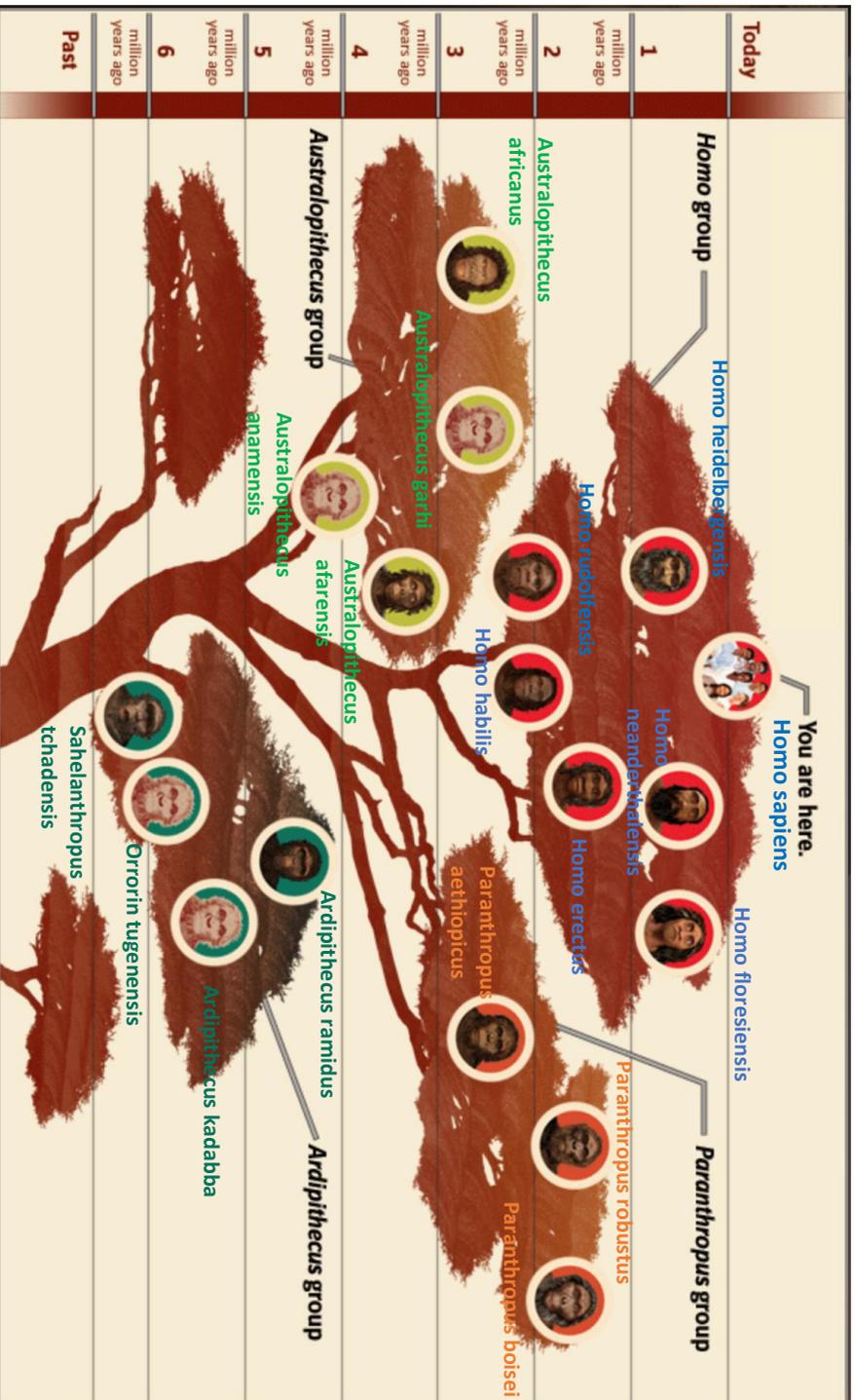


Figure 11: Image taken from The Smithsonian Human Origins webpage which may be found here: <https://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/human-family-tree>

The Mystery of Piltdown



'If you are clever and know your business you can fake a bone as easily as you can a photograph'

-Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, The Lost World.

In 1912, the year in which 'The Lost World' was first serialised and published in book form, a striking archaeological discovery took the scientific world by storm. The finds were thought to irrevocably alter our perception of human kind and were hailed as one of the most important archaeological discoveries in history. During this time, British scientists were desperate to prove that Britain had played a pivotal role in the story of human evolution. The Piltdown man was the answer to their prayers – the discovery enabled scientists to claim that Britain was the birthplace of mankind and the centre of the evolutionary world. The Piltdown man was an extraordinary collection of fossils, including a set of teeth, a jawbone, skull fragments, and a collection of primitive tools, all claimed to belong to a single individual. The specimen was hypothesised to have lived 500,000 years ago and would mark the transition between man and ape; the long sought after 'missing link'. Indeed, the jaw was distinctively ape-like, while skull fragments indicated that the proportions of the braincase were similar to that of a modern human. One of the most remarkable aspects of the discovery, however, was that of a curious artefact identified as a prehistoric tool used by the individual in life. It was in the shape of a cricket bat – perhaps a bit too apt a tool for the 'earliest Englishman'? Despite early acceptance by the scientific community, the Piltdown man was, in fact, too good to be true. In 1953, fluoride absorption dating finally established the Piltdown man as a fraud. As opposed to a 500,000 year old human ancestor, the remains actually belonged to a 500 year old anatomically modern human combined with the jaw of a juvenile orangutan, thus, the Piltdown man was indeed an 'ape-man',

although not in any scientific sense. The Piltdown man was the biggest scientific hoax of the century and an embarrassment to the scientific community which had so readily accepted it as fact. The mystery quickly evolved into its very own Sherlock Holmes story with multiple convincing suspects but, too this day, no decisively guilty party. Can you solve the mystery?

Suspect 1: Charles Dawson



Figure 12: John Cook's painting, 'Discussion on the Piltdown Skull' (1915) shows scientists examining a human-like cranium found in Piltdown, England.

Charles Dawson was a British amateur archaeologist who made a name for himself by discovering a number of fossils near his home in Sussex before passing them onto Sir Arthur Smith Woodward, the Keeper of Geology at what is now the Natural History Museum in London. Several of these discoveries were later exposed as frauds, including the infamous Piltdown man. In 1912, it was he who presented the first fragments of skull supposedly discovered at the site. He claimed that at some point before 1910 a workman had handed him the first fragment of human skull and in seeing its dark-

staining and thick nature he recognised its potential as an early human ancestor. He continued to excavate the site collecting several additional skull fragments which he presented to Sir Woodworth. in 1912, Woodworth joined Dawson in excavation, discovering more skull fragments, the 'ape-like' jaw, primitive tools and the bones and teeth of several extinct British animals (Rhino, Elephant, Beaver). Charles Dawson is the only suspect always present when discoveries were made. He was an ambitious man with an unsavoury local reputation and a track record of archaeological forgeries. There is doubt, however, as to whether he possessed sufficient knowledge to fake the bones that had deceived so many scientists.



Figure 13: The first suspect - Charles Dawson. A solicitor and armature archaeologist with a history of forgeries and an unsavory local reputation.

Suspect 2: Martin Hinton

Unlike Charles Dawson, Martin Hinton clearly demonstrated his ability to produce the staining on the bones found at Piltdown which convinced scientists of its ancient origin. Hinton was a volunteer at the Natural History Museum during the time in which the remains were discovered. He is believed to have had a grudge against Sir Arthur Woodworth and had previously fallen out with him over payment for his work. In 1978, Hinton's trunk was found within the Natural History Museum, years after he had left the institution. Inside, were several fossil animal bones, stained and deliberately cut to see how far the stain had penetrated. The stains replicated those seen upon the remains of the Piltdown man. It is unclear as to whether he was doing this to the remains to test how the forgery may have occurred or whether he was doing it so that he may plant them there himself, tarnishing the career of Sir Woodworth and demonstrating his superior intellect.

Suspect 3: Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

In 1983, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle was thrust into the role of suspect by John Winslow and Alfred Meyer in their academic paper '*The Perpetrator at Piltdown*', published in the influential journal *Science*. It questioned whether the story of the Piltdown man had been authored by Doyle in the same way he had masterminded some of the best mysteries in the literary world. In their essay, Winslow and Meyer claimed that Doyle was the only logical perpetrator of the crime, citing his literary reputation, love for hoaxes, scepticism of science, and spiritualistic faith as evidence of his guilt:

'He was a man who loved hoaxes, adventure and danger; a writer gifted at manipulating complex plots; and perhaps most important of all, one who bore a grudge against the British science establishment...

That Doyle has not been implicated in the hoax before now not only is a testament to the skill with which he appears to have perpetrated it, but it also explains why the case against him is circumstantial, intricate, even convoluted. For to be on Doyle's trail is in a sense to be on the trail of the world's greatest fictional detective himself: Sherlock Holmes.'



Figure 14: A familiar face? - Suspect 3, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Indeed, during the time in which Piltdown man was discovered, Doyle was living only a few miles away from the find site; he was interested in palaeontology and was an avid collector of fossils; he was a member of the same archaeological society as Charles Dawson, and as a doctor, had the relevant knowledge of anatomy to be technically able to pull off the forgery. Moreover, Doyle had already proven his talent for forging evidence with the photographs seen in the book edition of the lost world; and in the context of Piltdown man, the quote cited at the beginning of this chapter may read as a subtle hint of his guilt. In fact, Meyer and Winslow conclude that the Piltdown man hoax was inspired by or developed hand in hand with the plot of 'The Lost World' seeing as both the discovery and the publication of the novel occurred on the same year.

However, since the publication of Meyer and Winslow's *'The perpetrator at Piltdown'* many of the arguments made have been refuted. One major point, that Doyle wanted to damage the scientific community, is unconvincing for a number of reasons. Firstly, during this time, Doyle was actually friends with many major players in the scientific world. Secondly, in 1912, Doyle could not yet be considered a zealous spiritualist, and thirdly, even once Doyle had become a strong believer in spiritualism, he did not question the theory of evolution. In fact, in many ways, 'The Lost World' displays his interest in the scientific world and his knowledge of evolutionary theory, regularly citing famous evolutionary theorists and their ideas.

Despite this, many claim that the discovery of the Piltdown man in the same year as the publication of 'The Lost World', along with Doyle's proximity to the site is not merely a coincidence. His role, however, remains unclear, perhaps he was only the inspiration behind the hoax, perhaps he played no role at all, or perhaps he orchestrated it himself. It seems unlikely that a definitive answer will ever be attained.

[Want to Learn More?](#)

Journals:

Oakley, K., Weiner, J. 1955: Piltdown Man. *American Scientist*. 43 (4), 573-583.

Stringer, C. 2012: The 100-Year Mystery of Piltdown Man. *Nature*. 492, 177- 179.

Lampadius, S. 2012: Evolutionary ideas in Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Lost World*. In: P. Lang, Der andere Conan Doyle: Internationale Tagung am 20. Und 21. Mai 2011 in Leipzig. Frankfurt. 68-97.

Books:

Russel, M. 2012: *The Piltdown Man Hoax: Case Closed*. Gloucestershire: The History Press.

Weiner, J. 2003: *The Piltdown Forgery: The Classic Account of the Most Famous and Successful Hoax in History*. Oxford: OUP Oxford.

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<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/our-science/departments-and-staff/library-and-archives/collections/piltdown-man.html>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/archaeology/piltdown_man_01.shtml

<https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/science/scientific-insights/the-piltdown-man-the-greatest-scientific-fraud-of-the-20th-century/>