



**Location** Ancient human fossils have been found in many regions of the world.  
 ■ Which continent has the most fossil sites?

more australopithecine fossils were found in southern Africa. Then, in 1959 Louis and Mary Leakey found australopithecine fossils at Olduvai (OHL•duh•vy) Gorge in Tanzania (tan•zuh•NEE•uh), eastern Africa.

Soon after these discoveries, the Leakeys found other early hominid fossils. One of these hominids appeared to have been round-headed and small-boned. Louis Leakey believed this hominid to be a direct ancestor of modern humans. He named it *Homo habilis* (HAH•buh•lis), a Latin term meaning "handy person." He gave it this name because he also found stone tools nearby.

Louis and Mary Leakey's son Richard continued his parents'

work. He has found dozens of hominid fossils while searching at Lake Turkana in northern Kenya. Among these are remains of *Homo habilis* from about 2.5 million years ago, the time when toolmaking began.

Other scientists have also made astonishing finds. Near the Awash (AH•wahsh) River in Ethiopia, paleoanthropologist Don Johanson unearthed a 3-million-year-old australopithecine. Johanson and his team nicknamed their find "Lucy."

"I just can't believe it!" Johanson cried out upon making his 1974 discovery of Lucy. He was surprised to find almost half of an ancient skeleton. Usually paleoanthropologists are not that fortunate. Often they find just a small piece of ancient life, such as a jawbone or part of an arm bone,



In this photograph Mary Leakey examines ancient footprints.