

## Evolution research: What were the top discoveries of 2022?

Telling us more about our food, our health, our close relatives and ancestors, and even our animal friends, these 14 new discoveries scientists made this year shed more light on what it means to be human.

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In January, W. Andrew Barr from George Washington University and colleagues [examined](#) all the fossil evidence for butchery in eastern Africa from 1.2 million years ago and older. They [concluded](#) that the evidence for increased carnivory in our ancestors is merely an effect of increased sampling of the archaeological record at certain time intervals starting around two million years ago, meaning that there is [no strong relationship](#) between eating more meat and the evolution of larger brains in our ancestors.

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A June study led by Anders Bergström and Pontus Skoglund of the Francis Crick Institute looked at genomes of ancient wolves, from whom our species domesticated the modern dog, to try to determine where and when the connection between humans and dogs began.

They [found](#) that ancient wolf populations in North America, Europe and Siberia were interconnected with each other in the past rather than being separate populations as they are today, and that all dogs included in the study are most closely related to wolves from eastern Eurasia rather than from western Eurasia.

[\*\*This is an excerpt. Read the original post here\*\*](#)