

## ORIGINS OF THE

Department of Science and Technology

> **13.7 ± 0.2bn** years ago: Universe, which includes time and space, begins with the Big Bang

**300 000 years after the Big Bang:** Hydrogen nuclei capture electrons, forming the first atoms

> 600m years after the Big Bang: Formation of first galaxies

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5bn years ago (8.7bn years after the Big Bang): Formation of the Sun

SAAST

www.saasta.ac.za

**4.5bn years ago:** Formation of the Earth and other planets – start of geologic timescale

**3.5bn years ago:** First signs of single-celled life on Earth

600 to 500m years ago: Multicellular life evolves

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12 to 10 thousand years ago (the

Holocene epoch): Homo sapiens invent agriculture; start of human civilization

## **2.5 to 2m years ago:** Appearance of the genus Homo

About 150 000 years ago: Appearance of Homo sapiens.