



Illustration by Zina Deretsky, National Science Foundation; photos of Chinese skull casts courtesy of the Human Origins Program, Smithsonian Institution; photos of Javanese and African skull casts courtesy of Susan Antón, New York University.

In the long-lived and geographically diverse species *Homo erectus*, brain size varies quite a bit in each geographic region. Over the entire duration of the species (1.9 million years ago to perhaps 100,000 years ago), brain size varies from about 650 to 1250 cubic centimeters (cc). At any given period, the difference in brain sizes is about 400 cc between the smallest and the largest individuals, but the mean value for the species increases with time. The same is true of average brow-ridge size, which increases with time while still maintaining a fair degree of individual variation (smaller brained *H. erectus* also have smaller brows).