



FIGURE 10.7.

The most widely held family tree of human beings by paleoanthropologists during the 1960s and 1970s. There were other hypothetical family trees during this period, but they also placed *A. africanus* as the fossil ancestor of humans. Dark areas represent range of known fossil specimens, light areas the most significant fossil gaps. The addition of *Ramapithecus* is based on Johanson's contention that it foreshadowed hominids.

rather like humans. It is interesting to contrast these with the more ape-like reproductions published in 1978 in William Haviland's textbook, *Anthropology*.

During the 1960s and 1970s, paleoanthropologists developed several possible family trees of human beings. The most widely accepted family tree is illustrated in Figure 10.7. Note that the most widely held scientific opinion placed *A. africanus* as the ancestor of both *A. robustus* and *H. habilis*.

**Homo habilis.** In 1964, the famous paleoanthropologist Louis B. Leakey identified the next candidate for human ancestry in East Africa. Because it begins to resemble humans and probably used primitive tools, he classified this hominid as Homo (man) with the full name of *Homo habilis* (handy man). A far better skull specimen was later found by Louis's son, Richard Leakey. *Homo habilis* is now accepted by scientists as possibly being in the ancestral line to modern man. Its brain cavity size is intermediate between that of apes and humans (800 cu. cm.). It is thought to occupy the time slot of roughly 1.8 million years ago.