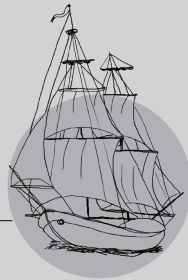


# Timeline of Sarah Baartman (c.1789–2002)

**c.1789**

Born in the Gamtoos Valley, Eastern Cape, South Africa. Member of the Khoikhoi people.



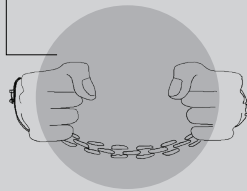
**1810**



Taken to London by a British ship's doctor (William Dunlop) and an entrepreneur. Exhibited as the "Hottentot Venus", where her body was displayed for paying audiences.

**1811**

Anti-slavery activists in Britain raise legal concerns. A court hearing is held in London to determine if she was being kept in slavery. The court rules that she had consented, but under coercion and without real freedom.



**1814**



Taken to Paris, where she continues to be exhibited. Studied by scientists, including Georges Cuvier, who viewed her as a specimen to reinforce racist theories.

**29 / 12  
1815**

Dies in Paris at about age 25, likely in poverty. Cause of death is thought to be smallpox, pneumonia, or syphilis.



**1816**

After her death, Cuvier dissects her body. Her skeleton, brain, and genitals are preserved; a plaster cast of her body is made. These are displayed in Paris at the Musée de l'Homme for more than 150 years.



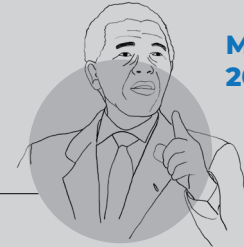
**1970s -1980s**

Her remains become a subject of debate among African activists and intellectuals, as her treatment symbolises colonial racism and sexism.



**1994**

Nelson Mandela, newly elected as President of South Africa, formally requests France to return Sarah Baartman's remains.



**May  
2002**

France finally agrees to repatriate her remains to South Africa.



**09/08  
2002**

Sarah Baartman is given a ceremonial state funeral in Hankey, Eastern Cape, on South Africa's National Women's Day.

