

Evolution Of Primates (p. 731 – 738)Why Humans?**I. Characteristics Of Primates****1. Define the term primate.**Primate – member of the mammalian order Primates, which includes prosimians, monkeys, apes, + humans**2. How long ago did the first primates evolve on Earth?** 50 million years ago**3. What were two adaptations of primates that allowed for stalking and capture of prey?**1. Grasping hands + feet 2. Binocular vision**4. Define the term prosimian.**Prosimian – group of mostly night-active primates that live in trees (lorises, lemurs, tarsiers) (Bush babies)**5. Prosimians are animals that most resemble early primates.**Circle One :True

False

Common about 38 mya
(N. America, Europe,
Asia, Africa)**II. Nonhuman Primates****1. Define the term diurnal.**Diurnal – animals that are active during the day and sleep at night**2. What are two types of modern, diurnal primates?**1. Monkeys 2. Apes**3. Monkeys were one of the first animals to possess an opposable thumb.**Circle One :True

False

(Increased ability to manipulate objects)

4. List four examples of apes.1. Gorillas 2. Chimpanzees 3. Orangutans 4. Gibbons**5. How are apes different than monkeys?**- Apes have larger brains and no tails**III. Early Hominids****1. Define the term hominids.**Hominids – primates that walk upright on two legs**2. What environmental change likely caused primates to walk upright?**Forests replaced by savannas (treeless plains)

3. What is the age of the oldest *Australopithecus* fossils?

3.0 mya. ("Lucy")

4. Australopithecine body size and brain size are similar to modern humans.

chimpanzees

Circle One :

True

False

5. The phylogenetic tree of early hominids is difficult to trace and remains uncertain.

Circle One :

True

False

IV. *Homo habilis*

1. What is the age of the oldest *Homo habilis* fossils?

2.5 mya

2. Circle the letter of sentence that is false concerning *Homo habilis*.

- a. *Homo habilis* used stone tools (axes, knives, scrapers, choppers).
- b. *Homo habilis* means "Handy Man".
- c. *Homo habilis* stood about 8 feet tall.
- d. *Homo habilis* lived in Africa for about 500,000 years.

Discovered

1960s

- near
Australopithecus
fossils

V. *Homo erectus*

1. When did the species of *Homo erectus* disappear?

200,000 years ago

2. Circle the letter of sentence that is false concerning *Homo erectus*.

- a. *Homo erectus* hunted large animals, used fire and made tools.
- b. *Homo erectus* was smaller than *Homo habilis*.
- c. *Homo erectus* evolved in Africa and migrated to Asia and Europe.
- d. *Homo erectus* is thought to be a direct ancestor of *Homo sapiens*.

Java Man

1891

Southeast Asia

VI. *Homo sapiens*

1. What does the name *Homo sapiens* mean?

"Wise Man"

(reverse order)

2. *Homo sapiens* originated in Africa and migrated to Europe and Asia.

Circle One :

True

False

3. When did the first *Homo sapiens* members appear in Europe?

130,000 years ago

4. Circle the letter of sentence that is false concerning Neanderthals.

- a. Neanderthal skulls were massive with protruding faces and heavy brow ridges.
- b. Neanderthals were tall and powerfully built.
- c. Neanderthals cared for their injured and sick and buried their dead.
- d. Neanderthals were abruptly wiped out 34,000 years ago.

5. Circle the letter of sentence that is false concerning modern *Homo sapiens*.

- a. Modern humans replaced European Neanderthals.
- b. Early modern humans hunted and made use of language (symbolic & written).
- c. Modern humans crossed a land bridge 2,000 years ago between Siberia and Alaska.
- d. Humans have been able to change the environment to suit their survival needs.

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TOOLS

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FIRE

Neander Valley,
Germany
1856

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