



**BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAMPURA, DELHI – 110034**

**SUBJECT : HISTORY**

**CLASS : XI**

**THEME 1: FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME**

In this e- module we will cover the following subtopic

The story of Human Evolution

**(a)The Precursors of Modern Human beings**

Please read these e notes and attempt the given Assignment in The History Notebook/ Register

Please refer to the ncert textbook Theme 1

<http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?kehs1=1-4>

For better understanding of the concept please see the attached you tube video

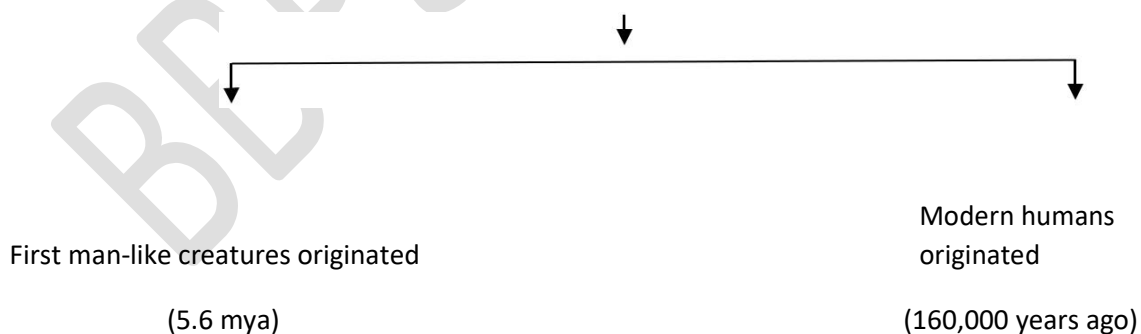
<https://youtu.be/ehV-MmuvVMU>

<https://youtu.be/WD9AYN7JnFM>

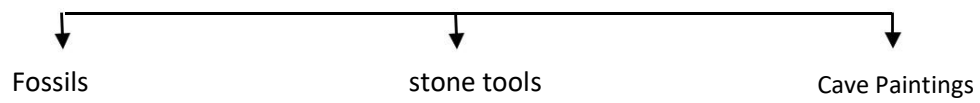
It is generally believed that the first human like creature's appeared on the earth's surface around 5.6 million years ago.

However humans resembling us originated about 1,60,000 years ago .Since then several forms of human beings have emerged of which some became extinct.

**EARLY HUMANS**

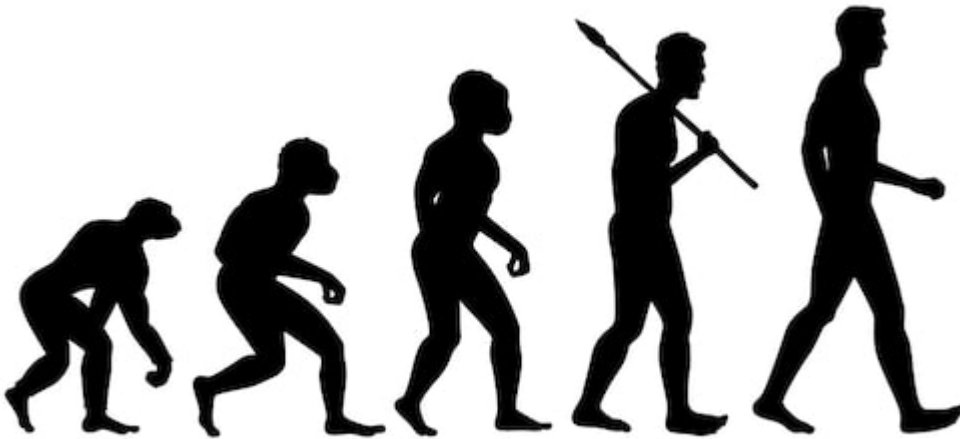


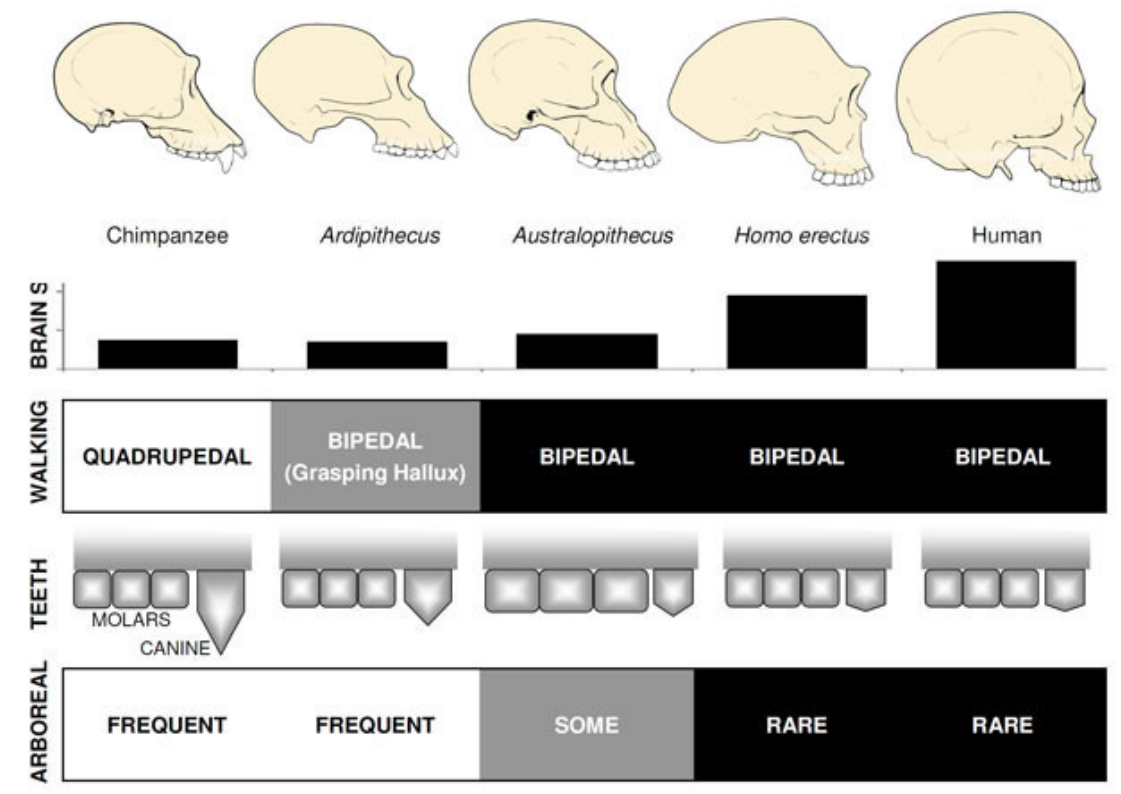
## SOURCES



- Fossils, stone tools and cave paintings help us to understand early human history.

## ORIGIN OF HUMAN EXISTENCE





- Fossils, stone tools and cave paintings help us to understand early human history.

### WHAT ARE FOSSILS ?

Fossils are the remains or impressions of a very old plant , animal or human being which have turned into stone . These are often embedded in rocks and are thus preserved for millions of years .

- About 200 years ago, many scholars refused to accept these remains.
- This was due to their belief in the Old Testament of the Bible.
- According to this, human origin was regarded as an act of Creation by God.
- In 1856, workmen who were quarrying for limestone in the Neander valley (Germany) found a skull and some skeletal fragments.
- They handed over their find over to Carl Fuhlrott, a local naturalist.
- He took the material to anatomist Herman Schaaffhausen at Bonn University.
- They jointly published a paper claiming that this skull represented a form of human that was extinct.
- On 24 November 1859, Charles Darwin published On the Origin of Species.
- He argued that humans had evolved from animals

## The Story of Human Evolution

### THE PRECURSORS OF MODERN HUMAN BEINGS.

#### PRIMATES:

- Emerged between 36-24 million years ago
- Primates are a sub group of a larger group of mammals
- They include monkeys, apes and human beings
- They have body hair
- Long gestation period following birth
- Memory gland
- Different types of teeth
- The ability to maintain a constant body temperature

#### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MONKEYS & HOMINOIDS

MONKEYS	HOMINOIDS
1. Small body	Larger body
2. Have a tail	No tail
3. Short period of infant development	Long period of infant development

#### DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOMINOID & HOMINIDS

HOMI-NOIDS	HOMI- NIDS
1. Emerged 24MYA	Emerged 6.4 mya
2. Evolved from Primates	Evolved from HOMI-NOIDS
3. Small brain	Large brain
4. Quadrupeds	Bipedal
5. Can't stand upright	Upright posture
6. Flexible forelimbs	Specialisation of hand

#### EVIDENCE SUGGESTS AN AFRICAN ORIGIN FOR THE HOMO-NIDS

1. It is the group of African apes closely related to the Hominids
2. The earliest hominid fossils which belong to the genus Australopithicus have been found in East Africa and date back to about 5.6 mya. In contrast fossils found outside of Africa are not older than 1.8 mya.

#### WHAT IS A SPECIES ?

Species is a group of organisms that can breed to produce fertile offsprings. Members of one species cannot mate with the members of other species to produce fertile offsprings,

## DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AUSTRALOPITHICUS AND HOMO SPECIES

AUSTRALO- PITHICUS	HOMO SPECIES
This term is derived from the the Latin word, 'austral', meaning 'southern' and a Greek word, 'pithekos', meaning 'ape.'	Homo is a Latin word, meaning 'man', although there were women as well.
1.Smaller brain size 2.Large back teeth , big jaws 3. Restricted upright walking and could climb the trees just like the apes 4. found 5.6 mya 5. Lived on trees 6. Limited use of hands	Larger brain size Reduced outward protrusion of the jaw and smaller teeth. Upright walking and didn't climb the trees like apes  Found 2.6 mya Lived on grasslands Skilled use of hands

## TYPES OF HOMO SPECIES

TYPES OF HOMO	MEANING	FOSSILS FOUND AT
1.Homo habilis 2.2mya	Tool maker	Omo,Ethiopia,Olduvai Gorge in East Africa
2.Homo erectus 1.8 mya	Upright man	Africa and Asia
3.Homo Sapiens 0.8 mya	Wise man	Africa ,Asia and Europe

## HOW SPECIES / FOSSILS ARE NAMED BY THE SCIENTISTS

1. Names given by scientists to the species are sometimes derived from Latin & Greek words . For instance the name Australopithicus was from a latin word"austral" (Southern)and a Greek word "Pithikeos" (Ape)
2. Names are sometimes derived from their typical characteristics . So fossils are classified as Homo Habilis (The tool maker) and Homo Sapiens (The wise thinking Man)
- 3.Names are sometimes derived from the places where the first fossils of a particular type were found.So fossils found in been found in Heidelberg, Germany and were called Homo Heidelbergensis. While those found in the Neander valley were classified as Neanderthalensis

## ASSIGNMENT

### THE EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN HAND

#### Q1. Answer the following Questions

##### THE EVOLUTION OF THE HAND

A shows the precision grip of the chimpanzee.

B shows the power grip of the human hand.

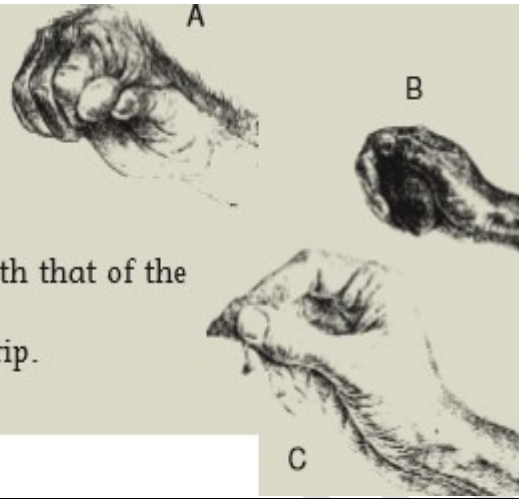
C shows the precision grip of the hominid.

The development of the power grip probably preceded the precision grip.

Compare the precision grip of the chimpanzee with that of the human hand.

Make a list of the things you do using a precision grip.

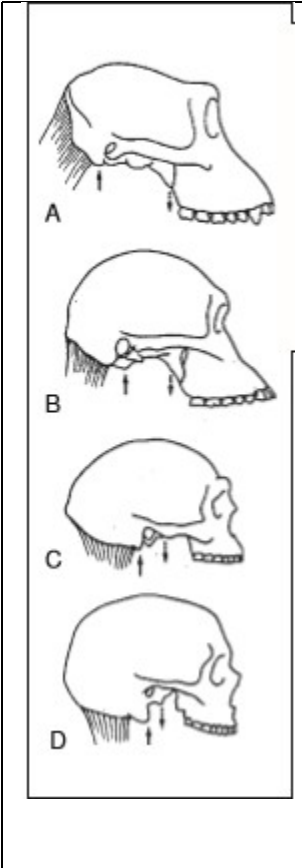
What are the things you do using a power grip?



Q2. Define the following

- Primates
- Species
- Fossils

Q3. Look at these four skulls. A belongs to an ape. B belongs to a species known as Australopithecus (see below). C belongs to a species known as Homo erectus (literally 'upright man'). D belongs to a species known as Homo sapiens (literally 'thinking/wise man') to which all present-day human beings belong. List as many similarities and differences that you notice, looking carefully at the brain case, jaws and teeth



**A.APE:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**B.AUSTRALOPITHICUS** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**C.HOMO  
ERECTUS** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**D. HOMO- SAPIEN**

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BBPS, PITAMPURA