

# Human Evolution

Chapter 14: Human Evolution · Topic 1

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## Key Concept

Evidence for human evolution comes from fossils, comparative anatomy, and genetic studies, showing gradual changes over millions of years.

Early hominids like Australopithecus showed bipedalism (walking upright), a key evolutionary step distinguishing them from other primates.

Homo erectus showed increased brain size and tool use, representing significant advancement in the evolutionary lineage towards modern humans.

Homo sapiens (modern humans) evolved with further increased brain size, complex language, and culture, distinguishing us from earlier hominid species.

## Quick Revision Notes

- Evolution evidence: fossils, anatomy, genetics.
- This shows gradual change over millions of years.
- Australopithecus: early bipedalism (upright walking).
- This was a key evolutionary step.
- Homo erectus: increased brain size, tool use.
- This was significant evolutionary advancement.
- Homo sapiens: further brain increase, language, culture.
- This distinguishes modern humans from earlier hominids.

## Practice Questions

- 1 Create a timeline of key human evolution milestones.
- 2 Discuss the significance of bipedalism.
- 3 Research the increase in brain size through hominid evolution.
- 4 Discuss evidence types used to study evolution.
- 5 Compare Australopithecus and Homo erectus.
- 6 Explain human evolution in your own words.