Will the First Humans Please Stand Up?

1. What are the 2 most important questions you would want to have answered about humanity’s primate ancestors? Why do you think these are the most important questions?



WHY?

2. List the 2 most important *similarities* between **living** humans and **living** apes Why do you consider these the most important similarities?

WHY?

3. List the 2 most important *differences* between **living** humans and **living** apes. Why do you consider the differences to be the most important ones?



WHY?

4. If you had to pick a single characteristic (trait) that, millions of years ago distinguished (made different) an ape from the first creature that could be called a hominid, what would it be?

Why did you pick this characteristic?

**READ THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ABOUT PRIMATES AND HOMINIDS (**Pg 9-14 BE1 L1.2) **Do with a partner. Each will read about 2 ancestors and answer the questions for the reading.**

1. What would you say were the 2 most important similarities between chimpanzees and Australopithecines?
2. What are the 2 most important differences, between chimpanzees and Australopithecines?
3. What are the 2 most important differences between Australopithecines and Homo erectus? Explain the reasons for your answers, including an **explanation of how you decided** what was “important”.
4. Which, if any, of the questions about human ancestors that you had considered most important in the introductory part of this lesson have remained unanswered?
5. Based on the evidence you have, what would be your hypothesis about possible reasons for the changes in hominids towards increasingly resembling modern humans?

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

You have been asked by a textbook publisher to act as their consultant on a chapter to be called “Human Ancestors In Africa and Beyond.” Your job is to come up with a time-line that shows all the information you think students need to know about this topic. Base your time-line on the information in this lesson. The publisher also needs from you the reasons why you have chosen the information you have shown as being important.

You will need a list of 3 of the most important pieces of information about each human ancestor: chimpanzees, australopithecines, homo habilis, and homo erectus. (total of 12)

You will need to explain WHY you chose those pieces of information to include in your timeline.

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