Will the First Humans Please Stand Up? HONORS

1. What are the 3 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 3 most important similarities between **living** humans and **living** apes Why do you consider these the most important similarities?

WHY?

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



WHY?

4. Would you expect the same kinds of similarities and differences to have existed between **extinct** ape-like and **extinct** human-like primates? Why or why not?

5. If you had to pick a single characteristic that, millions of years ago distinguished an ape from the first creature that could be called a hominid, what would it be? EXPLAIN WHY this one:

**READ THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ABOUT PRIMATES AND HOMINIDS**

1. What would you say were the three most important similarities between chimpanzees and Australopithecines?

1. What are the three most important differences, between chimpanzees and Australopithecines?



1. What are the three most important differences between Australopithecines and Homo erectus? Explain the reasons for your answers, including an **explanation of how you decided** what was “important”.



1. 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?

Do you still consider them to be the most important? Why or why not?

What evidence might answer them?

What, if any, important new questions do you have now?

1. 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:**

USE YOUR READING MATERIAL TO COMPLETE THIS ASSESSMENT

You are the leader of a scientific expedition looking for early human ancestors in Africa. You hit it lucky, digging up a number of fossilized bones with at least some human-like features, as well as various other kinds of objects. All were found between layers of ashes, the top one dated to about 1.5 million years ago, the bottom one to about 2.5 million years ago.

Describe the fossils and other objects you have found from which you could infer:

• what the early human ancestor you have found was like.

• what opportunities and problems its environment posed for it.

• what its way of life and behavior were like.

• where your find fits into the evolutionary line from ape to human, whether you should class it based on the information you have (Australopithecine, Homo habilis, Homo erectus, Homo sapien)

You are going to have to refer to the information from your notes and your readings to figure out WHAT would be in a site that is 1.5 to 2.5 million years ago. What do you know about what early hominds looked like and what they did…

You are going to present your information to an archeology journal. Write a 1 page article answering the questions above describing the fossils you found and what we can INFER about what happened

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