

③ The Evolution of Primates

What You'll Learn:

- Describe the differences between living primates.
- Identify the adaptations of primates.
- Discuss the evolutionary history of modern primates.

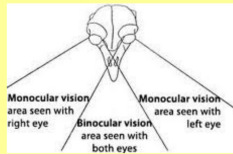
Primates

***All primates have opposable thumbs, binocular vision, and flexible shoulders that allow arms to rotate.**



•Having an opposable thumb allows you to cross your thumb over your palm and touch your fingers.

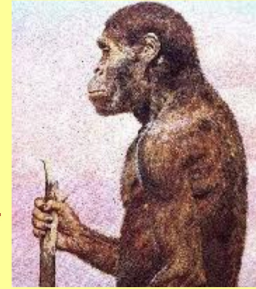
•Binocular vision permits you to judge depth or distance with your eyes.



•Flexible shoulders and rotating forelimbs also help tree-dwelling primates move from branch to branch.

Hominids

***Hominids are human like and share many characteristics with other primates except for a larger brain.**



African Origins

***Australopithecus (Lucy) is one of the oldest hominids discovered.**

***It is important, because it was an almost complete skeleton.**

***Lucy had a small brain and walked upright.**



Early Humans

***Homo habilis (hand man) was found with simple stone tools 2 mya.**



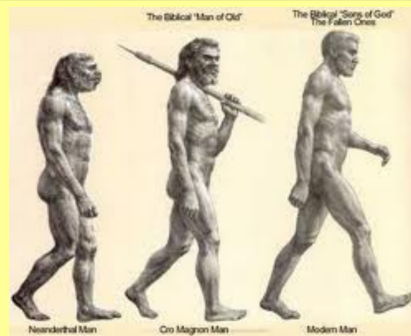
***Homo erectus evolved next, had a larger brain, and traveled from Africa 1.6 mya.**



•*Homo habilis* and *Homo erectus* are thought to be ancestors of humans because they had larger brains and more humanlike features than *Australopithecus*.

Humans

***There are two groups of early humans Neanderthals and Cro-Magnon. Homo sapiens (wise humans).**



Neanderthals

***Short, heavy bodies, small chins, and heavy browridge.**



***They lived with family groups in caves and made stone tools.**

•Neanderthals disappeared from the fossil record about 30,000 years ago. They probably are not direct ancestors of modern humans, but represent a side branch of human evolution.



Cro-Magnon

***1.6 to 1.7m tall, and physical features similar to modern humans.**

***They lived in caves, made stone carvings, and buried their dead.**

***They are believed to direct ancestors to modern humans (*Homo sapiens sapiens*).**



•The oldest recorded art has been found on the walls of caves in France, where Cro-Magnon humans first painted bison, horses, and people carrying spears.

