

Primates & Human Evolution

Essential Questions:

- What are the characteristics of primates?
- What is the relationship between major primate groups?
- What have been the trends in hominin evolution?

Primate characteristics

- Opposable first digit
- Binocular vision
- Shoulders & hips
- Brain size
- Reproductive rate



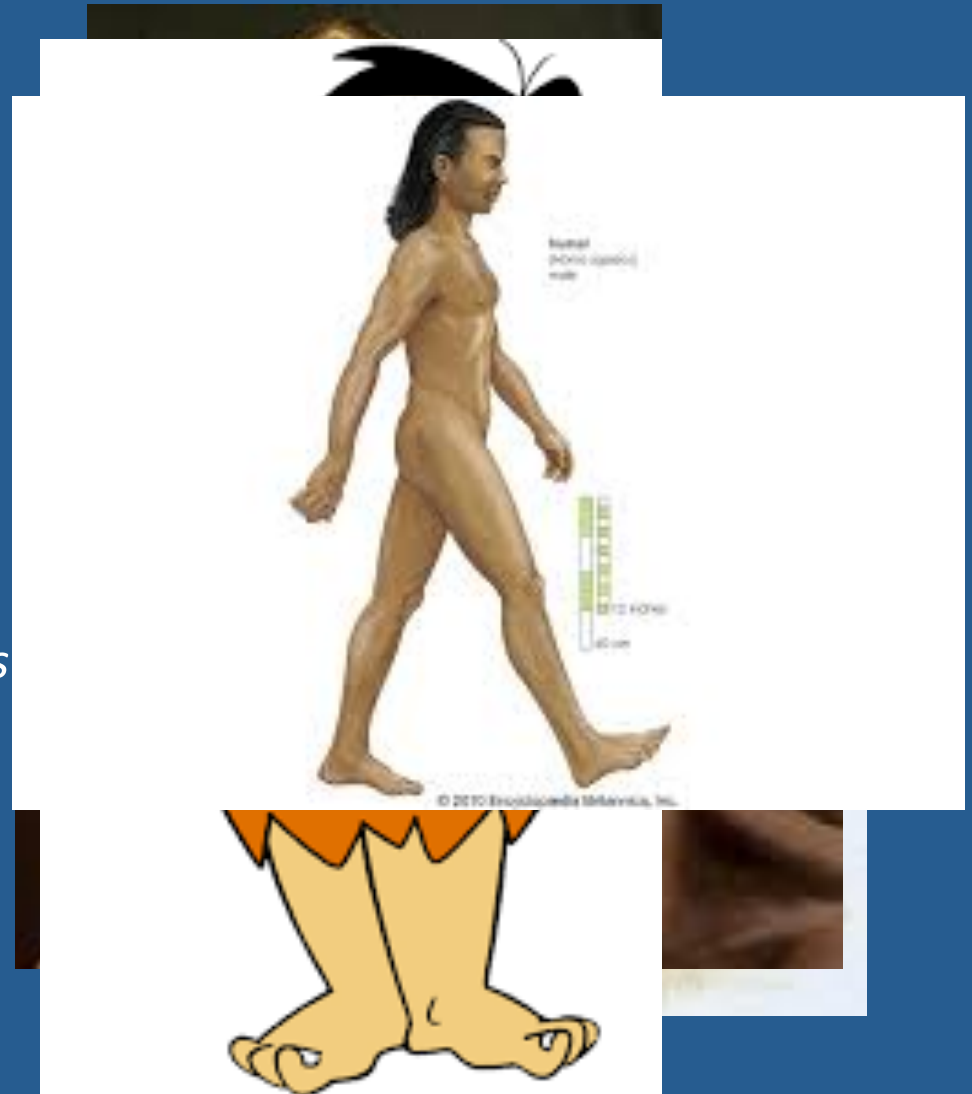
Primate groups:

- Strepsirrhines – ‘wet nose’
- Haplorhines – “dry nose”
 - New world monkeys
 - Old world monkeys
 - Apes
 - Hominoids



Human origins

- Hominoids
 - Hominins
 - Bipedal
 - Australopithecines
 - Genus *Homo*
 - *H. habilis*
 - *H. ergaster*
 - *H. erectus*
 - *H. neanderthalensis*
 - *H. sapiens*



Trends in hominin evolution

- Bipedal
 - Tool use
- Increased brain size
 - when?
 - effects

