

Review Questions for Chapter Two

Essay Questions:

1. List and discuss two essential developments in early hominins once they “came down from the trees” that gave rise to behavioral differences between hominins and apes.
2. The quantities of carnivore bones found in bone piles at both Koobi Fora and Olduvai are somewhat higher than in the natural environment. What conclusions can you draw from this and what is your evidence?
3. Describe the earliest uses of technical and social intelligence among humans, how they are revealed in the archaeological record, and what distinguishes these from the cognitive skills of other hominoids?
4. The first hominins were tree-living, with long arms and legs and broad chests, who eventually became bipedal. Describe the evidence for this statement.

Fill-in-the-Blank:

1. At least _____ glacial periods occurred during the Pleistocene epoch.

Answer: 9 (pg 38)

2. How long ago did hominoids—humans, gorillas and chimpanzees—last share a common ancestor: _____ years.

Answer: 6-7 million (pg 42)

3. _____ freed hands and arms for other uses and gave hominins endurance to move across long distances.

Answer: bipedalism (pg 42)

4. A specialized way of moving around in which the backs of the fingers are placed on the ground is _____.

Answer: knuckle walking (pg 42)

5. The main crucible of early human evolution is in _____.

Answer: East Africa (pg 44)

6. Hominins consist of two broad groups: _____ and _____.

Answer: Australopithecines and Homo (pg 45)

7. _____ preceded the expansion of brain size in some hominins.

Answer: Meat-eating (pg 52)

8. Making stone tools requires the cognitive ability to find the correct _____ for removing flakes from a stone core.

Answer: acute angle (pg 60)

9. At present, the earliest hominin to be classified in the genus *Homo* is _____.

Answer: *Homo habilis* (pg 52)

10. Before leaving the trees, most hominins depended upon _____ as their major source of food.

Answer: plants (pg 41)

True-False:

1. The Pleistocene epoch was marked by the mixing of populations of animals in hospitable areas and the evolution of new species.

Answer: true (pg 40)

2. Monkeys belong to the same suborder of primates, anthropoids, as humans.

Answer: True (pg 40)

3. The closest living primate relative of humans is the gorilla.

Answer: False (pg 41)

4. Paleoanthropologists believe that *Australopithecus africanus* is the direct ancestor of humankind.

Answer: False (pg 51)

5. Finds of *Australopithecus* are confined to East Africa.

Answer: False (pg 51)

6. A third line of australopithecines comprises the species *Australopithecus garhi*, a hominin seemingly specialized as a meat eater.

Answer: True (pg 51)

7. There were at least five species of robust australopithecines.

Answer: False (pg 51)

8. *Homo habilis* lost the generalized hominoid ability to climb trees.

Answer: False (pg 54)

9. There is no evidence that hominins killed or even scavenged the flesh of big-game animals.

Answer: false (pg 60)

10. Plants and vegetable foods were likely the most important part of the diet of very early humans.

Answer: true (pg 62-63)

11. Chimpanzees can learn to recognize acute angles in stone and use them to chip off flakes.

Answer: false (pg 63)

12 *Homo habilis* was able to “map” its resources over wide areas.

Answer: true (pg 64)

13. Studies of complete skulls of *Homo* species show a gradual descent of the larynx to its modern position.

Answer: true (pg 65)

14. Fully articulate speech was probably possible as early as the earliest appearance of *Homo erectus*.

Answer: false (pg 65)

15. A few species of *Australopithecus* were found in the New World.

Answer: false (pg 51)

Multiple-Choice:

1. The oldest known hominin, with some ape-like and human-like features is _____.
- a. *Sahelanthropus tchadensis* (Toumai)
 - b. *Australopithecus afarensis* (Lucy)
 - c. *Homo habilis*
 - d. *Ardipithecus ramidus*

Answer: a (pg 44)

2. Early hominins faced three adaptive problems. These included:
- a. their size and arboreal environment
 - b. their bipedalism and terrestrial environment
 - c. their size and tropical savannah environment
 - d. their size and arboreal cognitive skills

Answer: d (pg 42)

3. "Lucy" is the nearly complete skeleton of a female _____.
- a. *Australopithecus anamensis*
 - b. *Australopithecus afarensis*
 - c. *Homo habilis*
 - d. *Homo erectus*

Answer: b (pg 48)

4. *Homo habilis* had a cranial capacity of _____ cubic centimeters.
- a. 600-700+
 - b. 800-900
 - c. 500-900
 - d. 1000-1200

Answer: a (pg 53)

5. *Homo erectus* first appears in the fossil record _____ years ago.
- a. 1,000,000
 - b. 1,900,000
 - c. 2,700,000
 - d. 1,500,000

Answer: b (pg 57)

6. Cladistic analysis divides hominins into two groups, the more ape-like groups comprising the australopithecines, *Homo habilis* and *Homo* _____.

- a. *erectus*
- b. *rudolfensis*
- c. *sapiens*
- d. *heidelbergensis*

Answer: a (pg 56)

7. *Homo habilis* appears to have lived close to

- a. mountains
- b. glaciers
- c. reliable water sources
- d. rainforests

Answer: c (pg 61)

8. The earliest human tools were probably made of _____.

- a. stone
- b. bone
- c. bamboo
- d. wood

Answer: d (pg 59)

9. The oldest known stone tool industry is the _____.

- a. Mousterian
- b. Oldowan
- c. Acheulean
- d. Olduvian

Answer: b (pg 59)

10. Many skeletal features of the primates reflect a _____ existence.

- a. nocturnal
- b. diurnal
- c. tree-living
- d. savanna

Answer: c (pg 41)

11. The brilliant technological, artistic, and expressive skills of humankind may well be a consequence of the fact that our early ancestors had to be more and more _____ adept.
- a. technologically
 - b. socially
 - c. mentally
 - d. artistically

Answer: b (pg 66)

12. The first member of the Homo lineage was_____.
- a. *Homo neanderthalensis*
 - b. *Homo sapiens*
 - c. *Homo erectus*
 - d. *Homo habilis*

Answer: d (pg 52)