

1. Visit the [Human Evolution Exhibit](#) at the Penn Museum. Enter the *Finding Our Human Ancestors* section. As you look through the evolutionary timeline, describe what happens to hominin skull morphology over time. What do these changes tell us about hominin intelligence and behavior? Incorporating ideas from class, discuss the behaviors that accompanied these changes. (3 points)
2. Go back to the home page and visit the section, *Our Place in the Natural World*. Who is identified as the possible last common ancestor of all mammals? When did this animal live? Mammals share many anatomical features, including body hair. What is the purpose of body hair for mammals? (3 points)

3. Go back to the home page and visit the section *We are not Perfect*, and complete the Brain Activity. Identify the 4 lobes of the brain and list their functions. (3 points)
4. Next, visit the Vision Activity. How is the vision of dogs different from ours and other primates? Why might it be more important for primates to have stereoscopic color vision than it is for dogs? (3 points)
5. Next, visit the Body Joints Activity and learn about the different joints in our body. How do these joints differ in humans compared to other primates (like the chimpanzee), and why is this important for our bipedal locomotion? (3 points)

*Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History: Human Origins* (<http://humanorigins.si.edu>)

6. Visit the [Human Evolution Timeline Interactive exhibit](#). Use the Magnifier tool to scroll over the section of the timeline between 5-7 million years ago. Which species do we see at this time? Why is this time period significant in our evolutionary history? (3 points)

Now scroll to the time period between 2.6 million years to about 11,000 years ago (the Pleistocene epoch). What was the climate like at this time? What was happening in human evolution at this time? (3 points)

7. Under the heading *Human Evolution Evidence*, visit the 3D Collection and click on “[Other Animals](#).” Look at the images of the Amami Rabbit, then the images of the Tasmanian wolf (note that you can rotate each image with your cursor). How are the teeth and jaws of carnivores different from the teeth and jaws of herbivores? Do humans have the teeth of a carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore? (3 points)

Why do prey animals, unlike predators, tend to have their eyes placed to the sides of their heads? (1 point)

8. Now visit the *Primate* section of the 3D Collection and view the images of the macaque, baboon, gorilla, orangutan and human. Which of these species shows a dramatically different canine tooth? When did this difference arise in evolution? Suggest an adaptive explanation for this reduction in canine tooth size. (3 points)
9. Now visit the [Fossil](#) section of the 3D Collection and view the images of australopithecines. For what diet were *Australopithecus* jaws and teeth suited? How can you tell? (3 points)
10. Under the heading *Human Evolution Evidence*, visit the [Behavior: Footprints](#) section and read about the fossilized hominin footprints at Koobi For and Laetoli. How old are they? Who made these footprints? What do these footprints tell us about the hominins who made them? (3 points)



14. Under the heading *Human Evolution Research*, visit the [Anthropocene: The Age of Humans exhibit](#) and review the information. Browse the various sections in the *Anthropocene* exhibit. What does “Anthropocene” mean and why is this name given to this time period? How have humans and our ancestors been affected by the world around us? How have we affected the world? What do you think is in store for us as a species in the future? Are we still evolving? (3 points)
15. Under the *Human Characteristics* heading, click on [Brains](#) and review the information in this exhibit. What happens to hominin brain size over time? Why do we see this pattern (i.e., what environmental factor contributed to this pattern)? (2 points)

How does brain development differ in humans and chimpanzees? What are the costs and benefits of a large brain in humans? (2 points)