Early Hominids

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Research indicates that humans have evolved gradually from the early man to the homo sapiens (modern man). Human evolution can be traced up to 2 million years ago, from African hominins to modern-day man. Some of the remains of the modern man are traced through what the gathers and hunter's tools let behind. Their settlement and tools are essential in teaching us about the early man's way of life and diet. Although the hunting and gatherings faded away towards the onset of Neolithic man, some of the traces of these societies are visible. In this perspective, this paper will focus on giving a concise and accurate sequence of happenings through the evolution of humankind. Additionally, the paper will also emphasizes hominins between the period of 500 000 years to around 200 000 years. Finally, the paper will also analyze the environments that these apes had to contend with for the ultimate development of the modern man.

Homo Heidelberg's is believed to have existed between 600000 years and 200000 years ago. Biologists link the remains of this ape to Africa, Asia, and Europe (Gibbons, 2017). This extinct species of ape existed during the middle stone age and is assumed to be a subspecies of Homo erectus. Although towards the end of the 20th Century, reports show that these species may have existed independently on their own. One of the distinctive features of these specimens is the jawbones, which featured a few diagnostic traits that were left out in most of the Pleistocene specimens. The first specimen to be recovered was found in Heidelberg, Germany. The jawline for this mammal was long, which suggested that the ape may have had a projecting lower face.

Moreover, the specimen had small teeth, contrary to the massive mandible of these ape species. These species are divided further into Denisovan lineages and Neandertals lineages. Furthermore, Homo Heidelberg was the first ape to have left evidence of building like free-standing structures, which scientists presume was their home.

On the other hand, Archaic Homo sapiens were middle Pleistocene hominins that fall under Homo erectus and Modern homo sapiens due to their characteristics and behaviors. This early ape precedes what reports state as the emergence of the early modern man. Its brain size ranged between 1200 to 1400 cc, which overlaps the brain size range of modern humans. However, the major difference was the thick skull this ape had; lack of prominent chin and brow ridges. The archaic Homo Sapiens is thought to have existed for around 300 000 to 400 000 years (Kaifu, 2017). Some of its earliest traces were found in Rhodesia, making this ape known as Kabwe. Archaic Homo sapiens had a sloping and low forehead, sharp-angled rear vault, and large suborbital tori. Scientific reports claim that Archaic Homo sapiens may have been the first ape to develop language. On the other hand, it may have resulted from the hominin's brain size and group size. Besides, this ape is thought to have lived in groups of up to 120 hominins.

Homo Naledi was discovered in 2013 by two cavers exploring Johannesburg Rising Star Cave. These species are believed to have existed between 236000 to 3350000 years ago. Homo Naledi ape classification is still unclear despite its characteristic similarities with other hominins. However, the ape shares numerous characteristics with its ancestry of Australopithecus. The ape had a significant small cranial capacity of around 465 to 610cm^3. Their height is estimated to have been 143.6 cm and a weight of up to 39.7 kg. The hominin may have had similar cognitive brain complexity as that of common Homo. Besides, Homo Naledi had adaptations of climbing trees, were capable of long-distance traveling, which was similar to humanlike gait and stride. Nevertheless, this hominid tooth anatomy suggests they may have been eating gritty foods covered with dirt and dust.

Although Homo Naledi is not linked to stone tools or has any material culture, their surrounding environs suggest that they may have had the ability to produce and handle tools. They had small brain size, formed shoulders, hip joint, trunk, plus had curved fingers. The wrists and feet of these hominins resembled those of modern man. In addition, Homo Naledi species had developed limbs that enabled them to manipulate and hold large objects (Dirks et al., 2017). Therefore, they had a firm grip which indicates it was more of Homo than Australopithecus. Besides, this hominid had longus muscles similar to modern man, making them have humanlike finger pads and palms.

Homo floresiensis, commonly known as Hobbit, refers to archaic humans who inhabited Flores's island, Indonesia. So, it was until the arrival of modern human beings or thinking man, approximately 50000 years ago. The average height of this hominin is thought to have been 1.1 meters (Diniz-Filho et al., 2017). This ape species was discovered in 2003 on the Island of Flores. One of these species' distinctive characteristics was their many survival tactics. Besides, biologists believe that Homo floresiensis used stone implements to make work easier. This ideology is supported by the fact that stone artifacts were found along with the remains of this hominin. Even though Scientists claim that the species went extinct over time, they have never given a clear statement about the reasons for Homo floresiensis extinction. They weighed around 16 to 36 kg, plus encompassed unique ancestral features and derived features such as skull size.

Homo erectus is the oldest known hominin that had modern man humanlike body proportions. It is an extinct species of archaic humans, with its earliest existence dating to about 2 million years ago. This species is regarded as the first human ancestor. The Homo Erectus had a low braincase, receded forehead, jaws, nose, and wide palate. Although these species are associated with human likeness, they had a small brain capacity and large teeth than the modern man (Wood, 2020). Additionally, these hominins were the first human species to have been able to control fire. Homo erectus had elongated legs plus shorter arms compared to their torso. They had an upright posture. The hominin weighed around 41 to 65 kg with an average height of 1.4 to 1.8 meters. On the other hand, archeologists believe Homo erectus species may have given way to other humans like Homo Sapiens.

In conclusion, the evolution of humankind during the early, middle, and old stone age played a significant role in shaping modern man's thinking, characteristics, and survival tactics. From this viewpoint, human evolution triggered the development of the upright, thinking, and reasonable modern man. These are distinctly separate species since they may be distinguished according to their characteristics, way of life, and other body differences.

**References**

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