

Kael Thomas

Evolution of Humans Throughout History

I have been around for millions of years. I have seen the beginnings of humanity, how they have developed and have become what they are today. My name is Narrat and this is the oldest tale of humanity. For it is how they came to be as they are today. How do I know this? Well... I was there, as a specter, I am after all a death deity. Now then, back on track. This tale of ours starts 2.8 million years ago (4). First, I'd like to give a brief explanation of what evolution is. Evolution is the change in living organisms over a long period of time through natural selection (1).

It is often thought by humans that the origin point of their evolution all that time ago, was Africa. Well I would like to suggest something else, another possible theory. That theory is multiregionalism, I may have been there at the time, but some of these things slipped my mind. So I'd like to bring in a theory that some of you humans support. This theory states that modern humans originated in multiple places simultaneously (2).

Asia actually makes a comeback as a birthplace for modern humans and their ancestors. The fossils of the Dmanisi hominin from the republic of Georgia were also found to be as old as the fossils in Africa (2). You humans never cease to amuse me with your ways of finding things. I'd wager humans are still evolving to this day, I mean there is no way you aren't.

So, dark skin is, by you humans, thought to have evolved in Africa to protect against UV rays. This in turn would mean that humans not in these harsh sun conditions would have lighter skin. Now this I do remember. Humans didn't evolve lighter skin because of this. The light skin in Europeans is due to a new gene variant from a mere 4,000 years ago (2). This was also what led to the rise of agriculture and sedentary communal lifestyles.

The shift in agriculture made the diet humans eat was based on grain and starches. Which lacked in many nutrients, including vitamin D, this then led to the body itself to synthesize the vitamin. A metabolic process requiring the absorption of UV

through the skin (2). The lighter skin would allow for maximum absorption of UV for populations that faced low vitamin D intake. It's so fascinating to see how adaptive you humans are.

On that note, how many are interested in skulls? I'd expect the biology interested humans would be at the least. Well, if you're not, let's get you interested in them! The evolution of human skulls is rather cool. Back when humans were first evolving, the skull shape was very different. It was more of an animal than what it is today. There is this picture I found on what you humans call the internet, don't ask how I got access, that shows what human skeletal structures were like (3). Rather interesting really, not only was the skull different but the entire skeleton was different. Human brains were also different, in size, and intelligence.

Early Hominin relatives of you humans had brains the size of grapefruit... hehe (3). Though the brains of "neanderthals" as you call them, were several times larger. With the increased brain size I remember humans started to build more complex tools. Social structures became more advanced, better hunting techniques and language (3). This was a fun process to watch from above.

In other news, humans started to become really different from other species. Sexual dimorphism, traditionally in other species, the male is much larger than the female and has larger canines (3). With humans however, male and female are closer in size. Another effect is that males are less aggressive with each other, I did rather enjoy males going at each other though, makes great entertainment. Because of this development in humans, it was much easier for your species to get along and have societies and civilizations.

Now, we know of the origin, along with lighter skin, and how different human skeletons are from the first Homo genus. This is rather fun, gaining access to your "internet" and acquiring my previously forgotten knowledge. Because I am in a sense an immortal spirit, I can't just disappear and am trapped roaming this world. Throughout time though, I've grown rather fond of humans and their creativity. Along with your aspirations to know about your own species and past.

I have travelled across many planets in my long existence, looked at a great many species. The humans are by far the most interesting and far from boring, especially with your modern technology and conveniences. Anyway, humans have been around for so very long, many different changes have happened. Even the evolution of religious beliefs has evolved with humans. This has been the evolution of humans through history, hope you liked it.

(1)

Godfrained, Theophile, and Regine V. Drubbel. March 2019, kids.frontiersin.org/article/10.3389/frym.2019.00022. Accessed 29 Oct. 2020.

(2)

Martinón-Torres, Maria. Feb 2018, www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-01807-7. Accessed 4 Nov. 2020.

(3)

Urry, David, and Lisa Hendry.

www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-we-became-human.html. Accessed 4 Nov. 2020.

(4)

[Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_evolution#Evolution_of_genus_Homo)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_evolution#Evolution_of_genus_Homo. Accessed 27 Oct. 2020.