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Anthropology Essay 1

Biological Anthropologists have made the discovery of two ancestral species that has a direct evolutionary line to homo sapiens. One of them is the Australopithecus and the other is Homo Erectus. Now what makes these two species interesting enough is that they were evolved to become the primates of human evolution.

There are two Australopithecus species that lived in the same time period but at different locations. The Australopithecus Afarensis is famous for the discovery of Lucy as Lucy was the first ape to stand on two legs, marking the beginning of evolution. Australopithecus could stand on two legs; they were able to see any oncoming predators at a great distance because they now had the ability to see over grasslands which ultimately gave them an advantage. Thanks to their evolved bodies giving them the ability to walk, they took advantage of both habitats’ woodlands and grassland areas. Their physical characteristics is they have long arms, had curve on their lower back which absorbed shock when walking. Their height varies as the average for males are between 4ft 6in – 4ft 11in, females average height is between 3ft 5in – 3ft 9in. Same for their weight it varies as the average weight for males are about 90 Ib and the average weight for females are 65 Ib. Australopithecus brain are that similar to that of an ape and because of it their brain size capacity was at 400 cc which is smaller than that of a modern human and Homo Erectus. Now this species of Australopithecus lived between 3.85 – 2.95 million years ago. Australopithecus Afarensis lived in Eastern and Southern Africa where their fossils were discovered in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania. Their diet consisted of plant-based foods, fruit, seeds, nuts, insects. There is evidence on the remains of the size of their teeth and shape suggest that during the seasons where fruits were not available, they would hard brittle foods. Australopithecus couldn’t become hunters due to the lack of strength. They did however were able to use tools such as stone or pebbles to scavenge which would mark the next evolution of hunters being born and being a top predator.

Homo Erectus are another evolutionary line to homo sapiens. Homo Erectus lived between 1.89 million and 110,000 years ago. They lived Northern, Eastern, and Southern Africa, Western Asia and East Asia. The Homo Erectus didn’t have a preferred habitat as they began to expand their range encountering varieties of climates and environments. After, more than 200,000 years they doubled their range as it marks the first of many great expansions. The physical characteristics of a homo erectus was they had a brain size capacity of 900 cc. Homo Erectus height ranges from 4ft 9in – 6ft 1in, and their weight ranges from 88 – 150Ib. The size and broad shape of their hip bones are similar to that of modern humans which shows they lost the ability to climb for walking. They possessed modern human like proportions such as the pelvis and thigh bones features which was the result of adapting to life living on the ground and allowing them to walk long distances and become faster than earlier humans. This adaptation made them become hunters which then they became top predators. They killed any animal they came across. Unlike the Australopithecus, homo erectus had a power grip that allow them to use tools such as the acheulean stone tool, consisted of the creation of large cutting tools like hand axes and cleavers to hunt or possibly to trade with others. Out of other species, homo erectus were like any other as they were the first to harness and discover fire. The discovery of fire played such an important role because animals would be afraid of it, but it took a lot of encouragement for the homo erectus to obtain fire and use it to their advantage as a way for them to use such as cooking, socialize with other individuals’ homo erectus, exchange information, and scare off any predators that may lurk by.

Aside from differentiating these remarkable species, they do have similarities. For instance, both species adapted the ability to walk and took full advantage of it whether that be seeing oncoming predators from a distance, travel further, or scavenge for resources. Both species had bonds with their offspring as the females were much more in closure to them. Not only did they bonded but it is most likely that these species socialize.

Sources

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