

Chapter 2 Notes

1. Swingers to Walkers (23-3m ya)

- **Early Apes (23 million years ago)**

- Perfectly adapted for forest life with long arms, curved fingers, flexible shoulders
- Forward-facing eyes to judge jumping distances

- **Climate Change Challenge (10 million years ago)**

- Earth cooled, forests shrank, savannas grew
- Some apes ventured into open grasslands

- **Walking Upright (7 million years ago)**

- First "hominins" stood on two legs
- Advantages: seeing over tall grass, traveling longer distances, keeping cooler, freeing hands

- **Notable Early Hominins**

- **Ardipithecus (4.4 million years ago):** Could walk upright and climb trees
- **Australopithecus (4 million years ago):** Clearly built for walking upright
- **Lucy (3.2 million years ago):** Famous skeleton showing upright walking

2. Homo habilis (2.8-1.5m ya)

- **Major Change:** First creatures to create tools rather than waiting for mutations
- **Oldowan Tools:** Simple stone flakes and choppers

- **Walking Upright** (7 million years ago)

- Cut meat from animal bodies
- Crack open bones for nutritious marrow
- Process tough plant materials
- Better defense against predators

- **Tool-Brain Cycle:** Better nutrition → larger brains → more sophisticated tool-making → even better nutrition