

LOOK FOR THE "3 B'S": BRAINS, BODIES, & BEHAVIORS

AS YOU WALK THROUGH *FOOTSTEPS*, LOOK FOR PATTERNS IN THE CHANGING BRAINS, BODIES, AND BEHAVIORS OF LIVING AND EXTINCT PRIMATES AND HOMINIDS. USE THE FOLLOWING AS DISCUSSION POINTS FOR STUDENTS AFTER THEIR VISIT.

- BRAINS**
- In Primate Hall***
Compare the skulls of a gorilla and orangutan to that of a gibbon and lemur. Whose brains are bigger? Check out brain casts at the far end of *Primate Hall* to learn more about variation in primate brains.
What can you infer about brain size and tool use among chimpanzees and other Great Apes?
- In Hominid Hall***
Observe differences in brain size between two genres of hominids, *Australopithecus* and *Homo*.
You may notice that some australopithecines have a bony ridge along the top of the skull. This ridge is called a sagittal crest. Did you think it affected brain size?
Which genus of hominids is associated with tool use?
- BODIES**
- In Primate Hall***
Stop at the Skeleton Comparison Station and examine how a human, chimpanzee, gorilla, bush baby and a vervet stand differently. Which bones in the body are similar and different in each?
Examine impressions of primate hands and feet, especially the presence or absence of an opposable toe. How are primate hands and feet adapted to life in the trees or on the ground?
- In Hominid Hall***
Examine Lucy's skeleton. What parts of the hominid body are adapted for bipedalism (walking on two feet)?
What part of the skull indicates whether a species walked on two feet or four?
Find "Turkana Boy." How was his long, lean body adapted to the African savanna? Read about Neandertal bodies and compare how they were adapted to a different climate than "Turkana Boy."
- Paleoanthropologists can't go back in time to study the behavior of extinct hominids. Instead they infer behavioral characteristics through living primate studies, and by a close analysis of fossils.*
- Throughout the exhibit***
- BEHAVIORS**
Take a look at the primate video stations. How are these behaviors similar or different to human behaviors?
What might be the relationships among brains, bodies, and behaviors?
What environmental factors caused changes in hominid behaviors?
Today humans can modify their environments. How does this flexibility in behavior affect natural selection?
How will human behavior affect bodies and brains in the future?

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A general site for the new *Footsteps* exhibit.

www.museumofman.org
Home page for the San Diego Museum of Man.
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San Diego Museum of Man, 1350 El Prado, San Diego, California 92101
Phone (619) 239-2001, Fax (619) 239-2749, Email: education@museumofman.org