human evolution

While Darwin was writing On the Origin of Species, he was aware that any suggestion that humans were not created in God's image would be controversial. Accordingly, he merely hinted at a natural origin for our species by using the famous line "...light will be thrown on the origin of man and his history." His ideas on the evolution of humans were made more explicit in the 1871 book, The Descent of Man.

Darwin predicted that fossils of early humans (genus Homo) would be found in the same region as our closest living relatives—chimpanzees and other apes. In the 1960s, the first specimens of Homo habitis were found in East Africa. Since then, there have been hundreds of new discoveries of fossil humans and human predecessors.

Today, a wealth of fossil and molecular data provide evidence that humans, and other great apes, descended with modification from a shared ancestral group, For example, humans and other apes share homologous features—grasping hands, mobile shoulders, and enlarged brains. Recent research shows that the genetics of humans and chimpanzees

