

EVOLUTION OF THE MONKEY, APE, AND MAN



BRAN
The human brain has become larger and far more complex. The average cranial capacity of a male European's brain is 1350 cc whereas a male gorilla's is 500 cc. The increasing complexity of the human brain is evident in the development of the occipital and temporal lobes. This development is related to the intelligence necessary for standardized tools, language, and culture.

TEETH
Apes have large molars for breaking up quantities of vegetable matter, and large, sharp canines for tearing tough foodstuff as well as for defense purposes. Human canines became reduced in size, allowing for efficient rotary chewing with smaller molars.

HANDS
All primates have prehensile hands (grasping fingers to palm), and most have thumbs which can be brought into contact with the index finger, but only humans have a fully opposable thumb capable of precise manipulation of small objects such as fine tools and writing implements.

PELVIS
The human pelvis is shorter and broader than the other primates, giving it a bowl shape. The shape of the pelvis and the muscles attached to it make it possible for humans to balance their body in an upright position when standing and to maintain balance while walking.

FEET
Although primates have prehensile feet, humans no longer do. The human foot has been modified so it can support the weight of the body and function as a lever in walking.

