

Changes to Early Human Bodies





How and why did the human body evolve over time?

Specifically, this leads to my first question for this project:

Why did early humans lose their body hair over time?



Was it because of something in the environment?



<https://goo.gl/images/UXJ3WP>

Or was it because of something in their bodies?





Sources:

**This video from
YouTube:**

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-hRbq1wJS_U

**This article from the
New York Times:**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/08/19/science/why-humans-and-their-fur-parted-ways.html>

Theory 1

One theory on why humans lost their body hair is to keep their bodies cool when they migrated across the hot African Savannah to search for food.



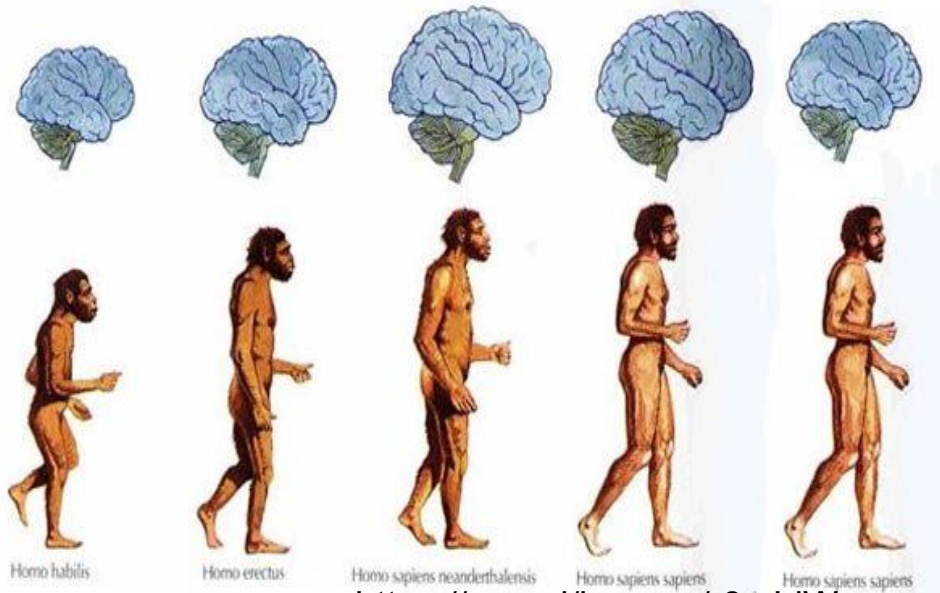
Theory 2

Another theory of why humans lost their body hair is that having less hair became a sign of fitness and good health, and this was more attractive for mates.





Why are our brains shrinking over time?



<https://goo.gl/images/r8uJdW>

For the same reasons as above, these were the most helpful websites:

www.ancient-origins.net

www.discovermagazine.com

www.scientificamerican.com



Here are the facts that I found:

- **Domesticated animals (pets) have smaller brain sizes than their wild counterparts.**
- **Domesticated animals do not require the extra brainpower that could help them run away from their predators or hunt for food because humans feed them at a certain time and keep them safe.**

Synthesizing

- Humans also do not need to hunt for food anymore. Instead we can buy our food at superstore or other places.
- As humans become less aggressive animals, our brains become smaller.



<https://goo.gl/images/SZfdy1>



In conclusion, finding the answers to both of these questions has helped me learn that the human body changes over time in order to adapt their environment.



Immersion

- **Watched a NOVA documentary and found out about Homo Floresiensis**
- **Discussed about genetic mutation and evolution with classmates**

What and how did Homo Floresiensis become dwarf and how were they similar or different to other species of hominids?

By Kento



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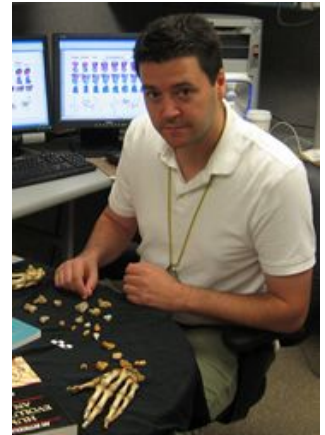
Road Blocks

- Main road block:
 - Only finding similar information
 - Distraction from others

Main sources of data

- Smithsonian Institute of Human Origins:
<http://humanorigins.si.edu/>
- Email from Dr. Matthew Tocheri:

mtocheri@lakeheadu.edu



Homo Floresiensis - Basic Information

- Lived 50,000 - 100,000 years ago in Island of Flores
- 3 feet 6 inches, tiny brain, large teeth
- Possibly suffered from Island Dwarfism
- Discovery: LB-1 inside a cave, Stone tools





Homo Floresiensis - Reason of Dwarfism

- No fossil evidence that Homo Floresiensis suffered from Island dwarfism
- Theory #1: Descendant of Asian Homo Erectus
- Theory #2: Evolved version of later species like Homo sapiens

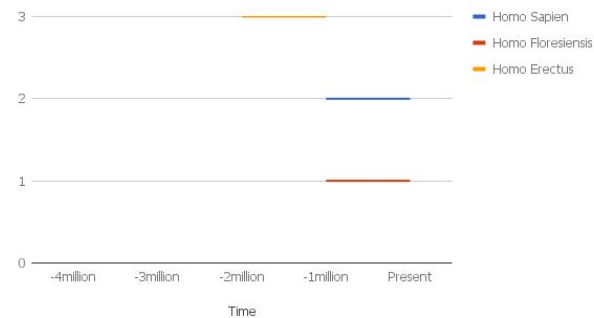


Homo Floresiensis - How did they end up on the island?

- Likely happened not on purpose
- Estimated it happened 1 million years ago
- Sometimes large chunks of land fall off a continent while carrying lots of animals

	Homo Floresiensis	Modern Humans	Homo Erectus
Appearance	<i>3 foot 6 inches, tiny brain, large teeth</i>	<i>5 foot 11 inches, large brains</i>	<i>5 foot 4 inches, relatively large brain</i>
Brain	<i>300 cubic cm</i>	<i>1350 cubic cm</i>	<i>1000 cubic cm</i>
Habitat	<i>Island of Flores, Indonesia</i>	<i>Most of earth</i>	<i>Africa, Europe, Southern Asia</i>
Technology	<i>Made stone tools</i>	<i>iPads, cars, GPS, etc</i>	<i>Hand axes, Hammers</i>

Homo Sapien, Homo Floresiensis and Homo Erectus





Coalescing

What I learned:

- **Homo Floresiensis is a very mysterious, unknown species, that is very unique that may change the way we look at early humans**
- **I think that Homo Floresiensis may help people who are suffering from similar mutations**