

# Free ebook Human evolution our brains and behavior (PDF)

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with some evolutionary irony the past 10 000 years of human existence actually shrank our brains limited nutrition in agricultural populations may have been an important driver of this

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early history of brain development one approach to understanding overall brain evolution is to use a paleoarchaeological timeline to trace the necessity for ever increasing complexity in structures that allow for chemical and electrical signaling

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from 800 000 200 000 years ago human brain size evolved most rapidly during a time of dramatic climate change larger more complex brains enabled early humans of this time period to interact with each other and with their surroundings in new and different ways

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how did our distinctive brains evolve what genetic changes coupled with natural selection gave us language what allowed modern humans to form complex societies pursue science create art

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the brain has undergone some remarkable changes through its evolution from clusters of cells that can sense changes in the environment to the complex intricate human brain by understanding how the human brain evolved researchers hope to identify the biological basis of the behaviours that set humans apart from other animals and were

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our evolving brains it s hard to believe that our complex human brain evolved from a simple tube the earliest vertebrates probably had brains much like the one in the modern lancelet amphioxus little more than a wide spot in the hollow nerve cord running down its back

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a brief history of the brain new scientist tracks the evolution of our brain from its origin in ancient seas to its dramatic expansion in one ape and asks why it is now shrinking by

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how the human brain evolved and why it matters at columbia s zuckerman institute franck polleux phd is tracing the origins of our extraordinary capacity for complex thinking his work has led to surprising discoveries about one of our brain s most formative foes alzheimer s disease

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our data show that 300 000 years ago brain size in early h sapiens already fell within the range of present day humans brain shape however evolved gradually within the h sapiens lineage reaching present day human variation between about 100 000 and 35 000 years ago

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the evolution of human brains conclusions from the fossil record and comparative studies of monkeys apes and humans three major features characterize human brains from those of early monkey and ape ancestors

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although the cerebral cortex is not the only brain structure which was selected for in evolution for greater growth as a result of growing environmental pressure for more sophisticated cognitive abilities it has played a key role in the evolution of intelligence

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new ways of thinking if attention as we know it is a product of our brain s structural evolution as sherman and usrey argue why did it evolve this way why didn t we evolve to be able to focus on all environmental stimuli at once

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through evolution human brains have developed into a feat of genetic excellence giving humanity the ability to walk work together and communicate well there are a few major structural differences between human brains and other primates that have contributed to its success in the world

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retracing the evolutionary steps by which human brains evolved can offer insights into the underlying mechanisms of human brain function as well as the phylogenetic origin of various features of human behavior

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human evolution is the lengthy process of change by which people originated from apelike ancestors scientific evidence shows that the physical and behavioral traits shared by all people originated from apelike ancestors and evolved over a period of approximately six million years

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in more recent times some have suggested that our brains grew larger as our intestines grew smaller due to switching to a fermented diet thereby freeing up resources

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there are some hypotheses about our brains it could be that our environments were challenging and we evolved big brains to conquer it or it could be that because we survive best as social

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the human brain is unique our remarkable cognitive capacity has allowed us to invent the wheel build the pyramids and land on the moon in fact scientists sometimes refer to the human brain as

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from self replicating molecules in archean seas to eyeless fish in the cambrian deep to mammals scurrying from dinosaurs in the dark and then finally improbably ourselves evolution shaped

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as our closest ancestors evolved brain size began to increase substantially in members of our own genus homo scientists believe that there is a link between brain size and how variable the climate is

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