

Assignment #4: Hominin Issues

Submit Assignment

Due Monday by 11:59pm **Points** 25 **Submitting** a text entry box or a file upload
File Types doc, docx, and pdf **Available** until Jul 30 at 11:59pm

Below you will find two short videos that deal with specific topics in Hominin evolution. Please watch each of these videos carefully and answer the questions below each. When you are finished, please copy and paste your answers into the assignment. Your answers should be single-spaced, approximately 300-500 words (not including the questions), numbered by question, separated by video. The word count applies to the entire assignment.

You may download the questions separately [here](#).

When Humans Were Prey



When Humans Were Prey

1. What was so important about the discovery of the Taung Child in the big picture of human evolution (mentioned at the very start of the video)?
2. Why did Raymond Dart believe that Australopithecines were hunters? What his idea about the “thirst for blood”?
3. What was Robert Ardrey’s “Killer Ape Theory” and what was the evidence used to support this idea?
4. What evidence did Sherwood Washburn use to disprove the idea that early hominins were violent hunters but instead were being hunted?
5. Describe in detail the evidence that early hominins were being hunted. Use evidence from several specimens. Name the specimen, who found it and/or who analyzed it, what researchers believe was the predator that killed the specimen.

6. How did the need to avoid predators shape the evolutionary history of hominins? What traits would have been favored by natural selection? Discuss the physical traits that were favored but also the important behavioral traits.

When We First Made Tools



When We First Made Stone Tools

1. Where were the oldest stone tools found that were shown at the beginning of the video? What were they used for and what technology was used to make them?
2. What other primates are named specifically who also use tools?
3. Even older stone tools have since been found. How old are they, what are they called, and what makes them different?
4. What “feedback loop” is theorized to have been kicked off by the use of early stone tools?
5. What is the significance of the Kanjera South site?
6. What was the new stone tool technology that arrived around 1.7 million years ago? What new types of tools were produced? Why would they be particularly helpful to the species now using them?
7. Where did researchers originally think these tools originated and what new discoveries in 2018 are changing that perspective?
8. What did researchers learn about brain activity when analyzing the brain activity of modern stone tool makers?
9. How is stone tool making related to specialized hands?