

## Activity rough Guides

### Anatomical Differences

Each page has a chimpanzee (always on the left) and a human (always on the right) specimen. Have students break up into groups, and each group will get one page of this document. They are to compare and contrast the chimp to the human and list/describe the differences. Once all groups are done with their page, they are to present them to the class and any additional information filled in by the professor. This is to get them thinking about the different features to look for that may or may not appear among fossil hominins.

### Earliest Hominin Contenders

Have students work in pairs or groups and give them the pictures and descriptions of the earliest hominin contenders. Have them compare the anatomical evidence as well as the scientific interpretation of this evidence (basically bipedalism or not) and hypothesize which one(s) they think has the strongest case for being an early biped and perhaps ancestral to human.

### Bipedal Origin Theories

Put the “Big Events in Human Evolution reminder” slide up on the screen to remind students of the timing of each of these big events. Have them break into groups and randomly hand them 1 or 2 of the theories for why bipedalism evolved. Then have them work together to critique the theory – what works about this theory and what doesn’t work about this theory? What evidence supports it? What evidence refutes it? When they are done, have them present the theory and their thoughts to the class.

### Australopithecines

After having gone through the important bits of anatomy they may need to know, have students break up into groups and provide them with all the pages of the Australopithecine document. Ask them to organize them in a way that makes sense to them (By date? By location? By certain anatomical features?) and then have them work out a potential ancestral lineage that they think makes the most sense. Have them explain why they think this makes the most sense...their reasoning – what things played the most important role in their decision making?