

What is the chapter about?

How evidence from fossil discovery shows the physical appearance and evolutionary pathways of hominins.

How the environment has affected hominin evolution

- Using geological and chem info and info abt the fossil can tell us more abt the environment at the time

- Early hominins were ape-like. Their hands and arms showed features suited to being arboreal - similar to modern orangutans

- Many believe bipedalism originated in an arboreal ape-like hominin in a forest environment bc orangutans move over small springy branches bipedally, using their arms for balance. This upright locomotion may have been used where there were gaps in the forest canopy and early hominins needed to travel across open ground

- 5-6 mil yrs ago, environment changed. Became colder and forest areas became smaller.

- As forest areas became smaller, they were separated by large grasslands. Natural selection favoured those who were bipedal, as those that were more arboreal couldn't swing from trees

Advantages of bipedal locomotion (erect stance)?

- increased



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Page 1 of 1.

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