

The First Humans (hominids)

**The first physical characteristic that sets humans
apart from other primates is**

BIPEDALISM

These earliest hominids are found where?

in east Africa and central Africa

In looking at the first hominids (humans),
What are the major issues?

1. What did the last common ancestor between human and chimpanzee lineages look like?
2. When did the split occur?
3. What factors favored the development of bipedalism?
What natural selective forces?
4. HOW? Was bipedalism the result of a macromutation?
5. Were there separate lineages of early hominids,
of which only one survived to lead to us,
or
were they all part of the same lineage?

Physical changes associated with bipedalism

Location of foramen magnum

more centered under cranium

Shape of spinal column

Shape of pelvis

Lengths and attachments of leg muscles

Angle of femur and shape of knee

Shape of foot

Relative lengths of arms vs legs

Thus, you could find any of these body parts and perhaps figure out if the creature was bipedal