

Human and Evolution: Taxonomy

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What Defines a Human

While there is not an exact define that scientist go by to determine what defines our genus, Homo. However, there are four lifestyle adaptation that scientist feel a specimen must have to belong in our genus.

- An adult size brain greater than 600 cubic centimeters.
- Limb proportions similar to ours with long legs compared to our arms.
- The development of stone tools.
- The use of language.



Process In Determine A Specimen Genus

- Determine the time period of the specimen lived in.
- Consider what other hominid species have been in the area based on the time period.
- Study the physical features of the fossil while comparing their features to current individuals in a species.

Limitations In Determining A Species Genus

- Inability to extract DNA from fossils.
- Locating well preserved specimen is difficult.
- Each fossil have varying features which could lead to a specimen being classified as a new species.



Debates on Taxonomy

- *Homo habilis* should be classified as a species in the genus *Australopithecus*

Scientists argue that *Homo habilis* has distinctive features associated with *Australopithecus* such as having a adult brain size smaller than 600cc.

- *Homo bodensis* is proposed as being a new candidate of being the ancestor of *Homo Sapiens*

Researchers are arguing that the fossilized cranium of Bodo is neither classified as *Homo Heidelbergensis* or *Homo rhodesiensis* but rather a new species that gave rise to our own species.

References

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