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**Chapter 23: The story of Humans**

**B23**

**1. What were the contributions of Charles Darwin?**

- a) Charles Darwin gave the most accepted explanation for the mechanism of organic evolution.
- b) He suggested that human beings evolved from monkeys.
- c) He noticed similarities between man and apes.
- d) He also suggested that man, apes and monkeys have a common ancestor.

**2. Write the classification of humans.**

Humans belong to:

Kingdom: Animalia	Phylum: Chordata
Subphylum: Vertebrata	Class: Mammalia
Order: Primates	Family: Hominidae
Genus: Homo	Species: sapiens

**3. What are the characteristics that humans share with other primates?**

- a) Primates have a distinct face in place of snout.
- b) Most of the skull is posterior to the eyes.
- c) Eyes are directed forward, enabling binocular vision.
- d) Free movement of the digits, especially the opposing thumb.
- e) Claws are modified into nails.
- f) Enlarged brain, especially the cerebral hemispheres.
- g) Only two mammary glands to nourish young ones.
- h) Generally only one offspring in each pregnancy.

**4. What are the features of Dryopithecus?**

Dryopithecus had strong muscular arms that were longer than the legs. They were found in certain parts of Europe and China.

**5. What are the characteristics of Zinjanthropus?**

- a) Zinjanthropus occurred about 14 to 15 million years ago.
- b) They developed stronger and straighter legs with feet suited for walking.
- c) They could focus their eyes on objects which they were holding.
- d) They had stereoscopic vision and acute hearing mechanism.
- e) They started using their grasping hands for various purposes. They were also able to manipulate objects with the help of flexible hands.
- f) There was enlargement of cerebrum.

**6. What were the changes that led to the upright posture of man?**

The upright posture of Zinjanthropus was the result of evolutionary changes in the pelvic girdle and associated muscles. The pelvic girdle changed into a broad basin like structure to support the trunk.

The second change which led to upright posture was the change on the skull. The hole in the skull through which the brain continues got shifted to the lower surface.

**7. Write a note on Ramapithecus.**

Ramapithecus lived about 13 to 14 million years ago. They were the descendents of pre-human who appeared in Siwalik range of India. They are considered as the true ancestor of modern man. They were widely distributed in both Australia and Africa.

**8. What factors accelerated the evolution of early ancestors?**

- a) Shift in the earth's crust

- b) Severe change in climate which resulted in the conversion of large forests into grasslands.

**9. Who were Australopithecus?**

The descendent of Ramapithecus who appeared 5 million years ago in the drier regions of Eastern and Southern Africa were known as Australopithecus.

**10. What were the characteristics of Australopithecus?**

- a) Australopithecus were the descendent of Ramapithecus who appeared 5 million years ago in the drier regions of Eastern and Southern Africa.
- b) They were relatively short (four and a half feet in height)
- c) The forehead was low.
- d) The brain capacity was equal to that of the modern gorilla.
- e) The cranial capacity was about  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd of modern man.
- f) They walked erect.
- g) They hunted in groups
- h) They used pebbles and bones as tools.

**11. What are the characteristics of Homo habilis?**

Homo habilis evolved from Australopithecus.

Their cranial capacity was about 700 cc.

The limb bones resembled almost that of modern man.

They used tools and weapons.

**12. Write about Java man and Peking man.**

The form of Homo erectus which was discovered in Java in Indonesia is called Java man.

The form of Homo erectus which was discovered in Peking in China was called Peking man.

**13. How do we know that Peking man was using fire?**

The occurrence of charcoal along with the fossils suggested that Peking man was using fire.

**14. What are the characteristics of Homo sapiens?**

- a) Homo erectus were by Homo sapiens about 2,50,000 years ago.
- b) They had a larger brain capacity than their ancestral forms.
- c) Their intellectual capacity was much higher.
- d) They had also developed language.
- e) They used sophisticated tools and weapons.

**15. Who was the Neanderthal man?**

The earliest form of Homo sapiens was known as Neanderthal man.

**16. Write the characteristics of Neanderthal man.**

- a) Neanderthal man was the earliest form of Homo sapiens.
- b) They appeared in Eurasia and Northern Africa.

- c) They were rather short, heavily built and strong.
- d) They had heavy brow ridges.
- e) The fore head was sloping with small chin and protruding jaws.
- f) He was good in making tools.
- g) He also developed speech.

**17. What led to the disappearance of Neanderthal man?**

Neanderthal man disappeared about 50,000 years ago during the last glaciations. They were also exterminated by men who overpowered them. They were unable to compete with a culturally more advanced group of men, armed with better tools and weapons.

**18. Who were Cro-Magnon men?**

The group of early men who replaced the Neanderthal man were known as Cro-Magnon men.

**19. What are the characteristics of Cro-Magnon men?**

- a) Cro-Magnon men lived about 30,000 years ago around the end of ice age.
- b) They had a large stature.
- c) They were active and intelligent.
- d) They had association with animals.
- e) They used finely chipped stone arrows and spear points.
- f) They carved tools and ornaments from ivory.

**20. How is modern man different from Cro-Magnon man?**

- a) Culturally modern man is more advanced.
- b) He is capable of thinking, memorizing, speaking, reading and writing.
- c) He developed agriculture and started domesticating animals.
- d) He has also learnt to manipulate nature according to his needs.
- e) He has developed science and technology using his intelligence.
- f) He has emerged as the most dominant creature on earth.

**21. What is meant by stock or race?**

A classification system used to categorize humans into large and distinct populations.

**22. Name the five human races.**

- a) Caucasoids
- b) Mongoloids
- c) Congoids
- d) Capoids
- e) Australoids

**23. Briefly explain the characteristics of the five races.**

- 1) Caucasoids
  - a) They are characterized by light skin.
  - b) They have blue or dark brown eyes.

- c) They have a high ridged nose with narrow nostrils.
  - d) Hair is straight or wavy.
  - e) They live in Europe, India and certain parts of America.
- 2) Mongoloids
- a) They are characterized by yellowish or reddish skin.
  - b) They have thick lip and wider nose.
  - c) Hair is straight.
  - d) They live in China, Japan, Mongolia, Malaysia, American Indians and Eskimos.
- 3) Congoids
- a) They are characterized by black skin.
  - b) They have thick lip and wider nose.
  - c) Hair is woolly
  - d) They live in Central and South Africa.
- 4) Capoids
- a) They are characterized by black or brown skin.
  - b) They are represented by bushmen of Africa.
- 5) Australoids
- a) They are characterized by brown skin.
  - b) Hair is curly.
  - c) They have deep eye sockets.
  - d) They are the original inhabitants of Australia.

**Fill in the blanks:**

1. The theory of natural selection was proposed by Charles Darwin.
2. The person who suggested that human beings evolved from monkeys was Charles Darwin.
3. The book published by Charles Darwin is 'The Descent of Man'.
4. 'The Descent of Man' is the book published by Charles Darwin.
5. The similarities between man and apes were noticed by Charles Darwin.
6. The person who suggested that man, apes and monkeys have a common ancestor was Charles Darwin.
7. Man, apes and monkeys have a common ancestor.
8. The genus to which humans belong is homo.
9. The family to which humans belong is Hominidae.
10. The order to which humans belong is Primates.
11. The group to which humans are classified under mammals is called primates.

12. Most reliable and direct evidence for evolution comes from the study of **fossils**.
13. Apes and humans have evolved from a semi erect terrestrial form of primates called **proconsul**.
14. The ancestors of modern apes like orangutan and gorilla have evolved from **Dryopithecus**.
15. The arrival of upright pre human form appeared about **14 to 15 million years ago**.
16. The first upright pre human form was named **Zinjanthropus**.
17. The upright posture was a result of evolutionary change in **pelvic girdle**.
18. The true ancestor of modern man was called **Ramapithecus**.
19. The fossil remains of Ramapithecus have been recovered from **Siwalik range**.
20. The pre-human form considered to be the first humans were Australopithecus.
21. The oldest known fossil skull of genus homo was called **Homo habilis**.
22. Homo habilis evolved into more modern form of humans called **Homo erectus**.
23. Homo erectus lived about **2,50,000** years ago.
24. The earliest form of Homo sapiens is known as **Neanderthal man**.
25. The fossil of the earliest form of Homo sapiens was discovered in **Neanderthal valley**.
26. The Neanderthal men were replaced by a group of men called **Cro-Magnon men**.
27. The sub divisions of human species are called **stock or race**.

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