

Chapter 2 Human Origins

Chapter Outline

1. Introduction
2. The Origin of the Human Species
 - A. Darwin and the Theory of Evolution
 1. Natural Selection
 2. Mutation
 3. Theories, Proofs, and the Darwinian Story
 4. Limitations of Natural Selection
 - B. Recent Developments in Genetics
 - C. Some Implications of Recent Developments
 1. Should the Species Be Regrouped?
 - D. Sociobiology
 - E. Punctuated Equilibrium Versus Gradual Change
3. The Evolution of Human Beings
 - A. Science, Faith and Controversy
 - B. Predecessors of Modern Humans
 1. From Apelike Creature to Hominid
 2. The Search for Eve
 3. Remaining Gaps
 4. From Hominids to Homo Sapiens
 5. Neanderthals
 6. Is the Human Species Unique?
 7. Cro-Magnons
4. Conclusion

Learning Objectives

The student should be able to:

1. Summarize Darwin's theory of evolution.
2. Explain the role of mutation in the theory of evolution.
3. Relate DNA to genes and genetic engineering.
4. Distinguish between the theory of punctuated equilibrium and the theory of continuous

equilibrium.

5. Summarize briefly the evolution of human beings over the last 30 million years.