



## **The Complete World of Human Evolution**

*Chris Stringer, Peter Andrews*

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## **The Complete World of Human Evolution** Chris Stringer , Peter Andrews

Human domination of the earth is now so complete that it is easy to forget how recently our role in the history of the planet began: the earliest apes evolved around twenty million years ago, yet Homo sapiens has existed for a mere 150,000 years. In the intervening period, many species of early ape and human have lived and died out, leaving behind the fossilized remains that have helped to make the detailed picture of our evolution revealed here. This exciting, up-to-the-minute account is divided into three accessible sections. "In Search of Our Ancestors" examines the contexts in which fossilized remains have been found and the techniques used to study them. "The Fossil Evidence" traces in detail the evolution of apes and humans, from Proconsul to the australopithecines, and Homo erectus to the Neanderthals and Homo sapiens. The latest fossil finds at major new sites such as Dmanisi in Georgia and Gran Dolina in Spain are appraised, and new advances in genetic studies, including the extraction of DNA from extinct human species, are evaluated. "Interpreting the Evidence" reconstructs and explains the evolution of human behavior, describing the development of tool use, the flourishing of the earliest artists, and the spread of modern humans to all corners of the world. The book is superbly illustrated with hundreds of photographs, diagrams, and specially commissioned reconstruction drawings by the artist John Sibbick.

## **The Complete World of Human Evolution Details**

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## **From Reader Review The Complete World of Human Evolution for online ebook**

### **Jean-michel Pigeon says**

Bonne synthèse sur l'évolution de la famille des Hominidae

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### **Ka Ming (Ivan) Yeung says**

I am a layman to this topic. Though some Amazon reviews point out that the book is not detail enough, I do feel content on the information it provides.

Scientists spent so many man-hours in searching the origin of human being; on the other hand, some sacred text said woman was made by a bone. Which one is more creditable? You have your own answer, but I am fully respected the hardworking of scientists. For those who just turn pages and speak what is written - hardly respectable.

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### **Russell Ince says**

A wonderful book which succinctly illustrates human evolution over the last 20 million years which I would recommend to anyone interested in human evolution, especially at a beginners level.

Just about every topic in palaeoanthropology is covered by Stringer and Andrews and, although they are proponents of the 'Out of Africa' or 'Recent Single-Origin Hypothesis' at the expense of the Multi-regional Model of modern human evolution, they do at least give credence to differing opinions and make it known that they are not independent observers in the debate (pp. 140-143). The authors also win my respect for admitting when there is uncertainty on a particular point. The section on the decline of the Neanderthals (pp. 164-165), for example, openly admits that there are a range of possibilities here.

The only downside to this work is that archaeology develops so quickly and, consequently, a printed work is often out of date as soon as it is published, although the authors can hardly be blamed for not peering into the future. Although *Homo floresiensis* (the Hobbit) is discussed here, the recent work on the Neanderthal genome is not.

I would recommend 'The Complete World of Human Evolution' as an introductory text book.

Second edition please...

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### **Alannah says**

A concise covering of the important finds and their associated flaws in the fossil collections. As always,

Stringer is brilliant as is Andrews. A neat review of human evolution- great refresher.

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### **M says**

Brilliant. Wonderful breakdown of all the species starting at the first primate and ending with *H. sapiens*. Part 1 is a nice refresh of paleo 101 and describes major fossil sites throughout the world. Part 2 has many chapters, each a small review of an ancestor from yore. Part 3 sums up the fossil evidence from part 2 with other avenues of inquiry such as behavior and locomotion, basically other aspects of human evolution to study besides the fossil record. This is a brilliant book, feels like an incredibly readable textbook. Excellent color, detailed photographs. It was intriguing for someone with a background knowledge in the area but I don't think it will be too much for the casual reader or general evolution enthusiast.

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### **Ralph Hermansen says**

Chris Stringer and Peter Andrews did a superlative job with the book. It is the best one I have read on the subject. It is beautifully illustrated with copious colored photos and drawings. The pages are of thick quality paper. The topic is covered thoroughly and competently. It is very up to date and educational. It would make a great gift, a great reference book, a great textbook for an anthropology course, or just a great read for yourself. I think that it is priced at only one-fourth of its real value and I love bargains.

Ralph Hermansen, March 7, 2007

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### **Kassilem says**

This book sort of annoyed me. There are few technical terms applied here, the purpose being so that anyone can read the book and know what Stringer is referring to. Which is sort of nice, except for the actual scientists themselves. Stringer would say "thigh bone" and I would say "are you talking about the femur and if so which part of the femur?" He confused me more than helped me in a few instances. But I'm sure that is mostly just annoying to me. The majority of people probably appreciated it. Besides this, the book is very informative. It's a must read for anyone interested in human evolution. It's good basic information. There are plenty of good pictures, both black and white and colored, of maps, reconstructions, bones, sites, etc. I would have loved to see more pictures of the skulls and the variation between male and females in each species. Interesting and worth the read, but I'm definitely going to have to find a more technical overview.

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### **Javier Mancebo rojas says**

Creo que fué el mejor libro para introducirse sobre el tema que hubo en su día, y quizás hoy aún lo es. Está llena de datos muy bien explicados, apoyados en fotos, dibujos y esquemas y trata de tocar todos los temas para que queden pocas dudas. Pasa que al ser de 2005 no incluye descubrimientos posteriores como el Denisovano o la teoría de la hibridación con otras tres especies (neanderthal, denisovano y otra aún por dilucidar)en estudios del ADN mitocondrial.

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### **Perry Krasow says**

A helpful addition to the general public's knowledge. It is factual, rational and clear; providing a picture of human evolution based strictly on the empirical evidence available. The book was written in 2005, and updated in 2011 to include recent finds, so is fairly contemporary. This is a highly user-friendly book. It does not assume that the reader is an expert in the field, so defines new and difficult scientific terms in parentheses. Full review of this and additional titles at [greatnonfictionbooks.blogspot.com](http://greatnonfictionbooks.blogspot.com)

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### **Paul Comac says**

If you interested in human evolution, this is for you. Full of amazing illustrations, the book covers millions of years up to our nearest ancestors. The last section has a significant warning about climate change.

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### **Pat says**

Simple but decent overview with lots of fairly helpful pictures and charts.

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### **Gary Stocker says**

Bit of a long slog. Does go into a lot of detail. Probably more for the serious reader. It is relatively user friendly in that the information is given in smallish sections and it is quite pictorial.

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### **Erik says**

One of the strongest recent books on human evolution for students and non-experts like me. I was surprised to see the multiple ancestry theory given so much credence, i.e., that modern humans are descended from homo erectus in different regions of the earth, because of facial features in the fossil record when erectus roamed the earth that are similar to modern races. Every DNA study seems to show that the out of Africa model stands firm and that modern humans evolved from homo erectus or homo ergaster in Africa or from homo heidelbergensis then left to colonize and displace other species. The facial differences could be adaptations later repeated in the specialization of homo sapiens to different regions. They do say that the multiple origins theory is a minority view.

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### **Mackenzie Mick says**

We had this book for a class. I ended up reading the whole book a few days before the exam. Evolution is real and this book was very helpful in giving a clear explanation of what evolution really is and how it has

worked.

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### **Amanda says**

Nice graphics, very up-to-date. I didn't like the organization scheme, though - and I think it would have been hard to follow if you didn't already know something about the subject.

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