**Vocabulary:** **Human Evolution - Skull Analysis**



**Vocabulary**

* Bipedal – walking on two legs.
	+ The first bipedal *hominins* evolved around 6 million years ago. It is from these hominins that humans eventually *evolved*.
* Canine – a pointed tooth that is used by most animals for grasping and piercing food.
	+ Canines are found only in meat-eating animals or animals that evolved from meat-eaters.
* Cranial capacity – the interior volume of the cranium, where the brain is housed.
	+ Humans have a cranial capacity of 1,000–2,000 cm3. Chimpanzees have a cranial capacity of 300–400 cm3.
* Cranium – the portion of the *skull* that does not include the mandible (lower jaw).
	+ The human cranium is generally composed of 29 different bones.
* Evolve – to change over many generations.
* Foramen magnum – a hole at the base of the skull through which the spinal cord exits.
* Hominid – a member of a group of primates that includes orangutans, gorillas, chimps, and humans.
	+ Modern hominids are also known as the great apes.
* Hominin – a member of the evolutionary lineage that led to humans.
	+ The ancestors of chimpanzees and hominins split into two separate groups around 6–7 million years ago.
* Index – a ratio of one measurement in relation to another.
	+ One common index is the body mass index, which is used to compare a person’s height to his or her weight to determine whether he or she is in a healthy weight range.
* Maxilla – the upper jaw.
* Orbit – a hollow in the skull for an eyeball.
* Palate – the roof of the mouth.
* Skull – the bones that make up the head of an animal, including the cranium and mandible (lower jaw).