**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Becoming Human**

Part 1: First Steps

 What are some of the theories as to why bipedalism developed?

How does bipedalism save energy?

How long ago did humans split from the ape lineage?

What is meaningful about Selam’s skull size? What does it tell us about her development and relation to modern humans?

What can we tell about the lunate sulcus from Selam’s skull? Why is this important?

How can paleoneurologists draw conclusions about brain structures if the brain is not preserved in the fossil record?

What appeared in the fossil record about 2 million years ago that marked the “dawn of a new era”, a significant step in human evolutionary history?

How large was the brain of Homo habilis? Why after millions of years of stasis, did brain capacity suddenly increase with Homo habilis?

What is the “Great Rift Valley” and why is it important?

What does the movie argue that the driving force of human evolution was?

Part 2: Birth of Humanity

What is the Broca’s area in the brain?

Why were stone tools important?

What are some of the costs of a larger brain?

What is “persistence hunting”? What did it allow humans to do?

What is one explanation for why Homo erectus has smaller teeth, a much smaller gut, and became more social?

What was a key factor in causing humans to leave Africa?

What is the molecular clock and why is it important?

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Part 3: Last Human Standing

What does Turkana boy represent in terms of human evolutionary history?

What was the first hominin species to migrate to Europe?

Why do archaeologists think that the pit of bones was an example of one of the earliest burial sites?

Of all ancient humans, which hominin most closely resembles us?

Which two parts of the Neanderthal brain are reduced in size? What does this signify?

How can paleoarchaeologists tell what the diet of ancient hominins was?

What two major climatic changes affected the evolutionary course of Homo sapiens in Africa?

Why is it so hard to obtain samples of ancient DNA?

What is the significance of the FOXP2 gene? Do Neanderthals possess this gene?

What are the effects of Homo sapiens on large animal communities?

What makes us special?

Has evolution stopped?