

How Long Have Humans Been Around?

1. Why does the author compare Earth's history to a calendar year in the opening paragraph?

- A. To show that Earth is exactly one year old.
- B. To explain how seasons have changed over time.
- C. To help readers understand how recently humans appeared in Earth's history.
- D. To compare human history with the history of dinosaurs.

2. According to the text, approximately how old is the Earth?

- A. 300,000 years
- B. 4.5 million years
- C. 45 billion years
- D. 4.5 billion years

3. What does the word *gradual* most nearly mean in the sentence, "*Evolution is the gradual process...*"?

- A. Happening suddenly
- B. Happening slowly over a long period of time
- C. Happening by accident
- D. Happening repeatedly every year

4. Why does the author compare human evolution to the branches of a tree rather than a straight line?

- A. Humans evolved from trees.
- B. Different human species existed at the same time and followed different evolutionary paths.
- C. Trees were important to early humans.
- D. Scientists no longer believe evolution happened.

5. Which of the following does the text identify as one of humans' greatest advantages?

- A. Their speed and strength.
- B. Their sharp claws and teeth.
- C. Their ability to solve problems and work together.
- D. Their ability to survive without food.

6. According to the passage, why was controlling fire so important?

- A. It allowed humans to build pyramids.
- B. It helped people cook food, keep warm and protect themselves.
- C. It enabled humans to invent writing.
- D. It made hunting unnecessary.

7. What was the Agricultural Revolution?

- A. The discovery of fire.
- B. The invention of stone tools.
- C. The period when humans first began farming and settling permanently.
- D. The beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

8. Which statement best illustrates how recent modern technology is compared with human history?

- A. Stone tools were invented before farming.
- B. The internet became widely available less than 40 years ago.
- C. Humans first evolved in Africa.
- D. Ancient Egypt built the pyramids.

9. What does the passage suggest about scientific discoveries concerning early humans?

- A. Scientists have already discovered everything there is to know.
- B. New evidence can change previously accepted ideas.
- C. Fossils are no longer useful to researchers.
- D. DNA has proved every scientific theory to be correct.

10. Which of the following best summarises the main message of the passage?

- A. Modern humans have always dominated the Earth.
- B. Human history is short compared with Earth's history, and our understanding of it continues to develop.
- C. Ancient civilisations are more important than prehistoric humans.
- D. Technology is the most important achievement in human history.