

Are Ape Men Real or Pretend? (Grades 3-5)

The Bible clearly tells us that God created humans on Day 6 of Creation week (Genesis 1:26-27) but not everyone believes that. We are often told on TV shows, the Internet and in public school classrooms that we evolved from ape-like creatures over millions of years. Some scientists claim to have proof that human evolution is true. During this lesson we will take a closer look at some of these “ape men” to determine if they were real. Let’s get started.

Two Types of Science

As mentioned earlier, human evolution is often claimed to be scientific fact. But it is important to remember that there are two types of science:

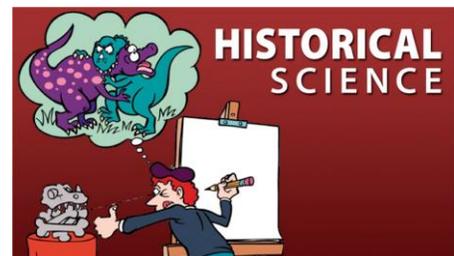
1. **Observational science.** Have you ever conducted an experiment? This is observational science. Observational science operates in the present—we can test our ideas through repeatable experiments. This type of science is responsible for advances in technology and medicine.



Credit: Answers in Genesis

2. **Historical science.** This type of science deals with the distant past. Scientists dig up fossils and artifacts and then develop ideas about them. There are some important things to remember about historical science:

- Since historical science deals with the distant past, we are not fully able to test ideas to see if they are correct.
- Ideas about fossils are heavily influenced by the worldview of the scientist! That is why two scientists can look at the same bones and come up with completely different ideas about the creature they are looking at.



Credit: Answers in Genesis

Three Great Questions to Ask

Whenever someone claims to have found an ape-man, there are three important questions to ask:

1. **What fossils did they actually find?** In the past, people have drawn pictures of ape men from a single tooth!
2. **What is their worldview?** Scientists' interpretations of fossils will definitely be influenced by their beliefs about God and the Bible.
3. **How can I look at this through a Biblical worldview?** As Christians, we should always seek to understand what God has to say first. For example, the Bible tells us clearly that there were no pre-humans:

“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.” Genesis 2:7

Activity: draw lines to connect the term with the related items

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Observational science | A. Remains of something |
| 2. Historical science | B. Thoughts about God |
| 3. Fossils | C. Deals with the distant past |
| 4. Worldview | D. Experiments |

Activity: unscramble the following words

1. ATLBSOEARIVNO _____
2. NSCEIEC _____
3. LRTIIOHASC _____
4. LOSFISS _____
5. IWERWODVL _____

The Fossil Record

Interpretations of the fossil record for human evolution have been filled with mistakes, fraud and incorrect assumptions. After watching the video, draw lines to connect the phony ape men to what they really found.



Nebraska Man



Piltown Man



Neanderthal Man



Ardipithecus
ramidus (ARDI)



Australopithecus
afarensis (Lucy)



Humans



Extinct ape



Pig's tooth



Extinct ape

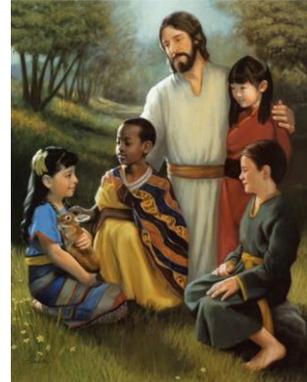


FRAUD!

Things to Remember

As you grow older, please remember the following truths:

1. There are two types of science: observational and historical science.
2. Interpretations of fossils are heavily impacted by the personal beliefs of the scientist. That is why two scientists can look at the same fossils and come up with completely different ideas.
3. There is no such thing as a real ape man. Interpretations of the fossil record have been filled with mistakes, fraud and incorrect assumptions.
4. People did not evolve from ape-like creatures.
5. God created us. You are a child of God!



You are a child of God!