


"First Fossil Chimpanzee"

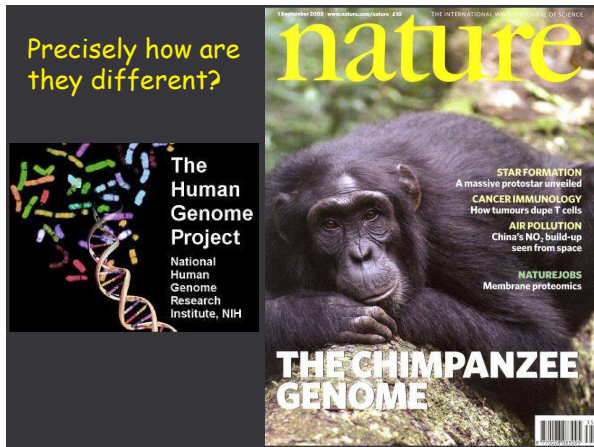
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Safa, Calgary
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Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778)

Humans: *Homo sapiens*
Common Chimps: *Homo troglodytes*
(Now: *Pan troglodytes*)



Precisely how are they different?

The Human Genome Project
National Human Genome Research Institute, NIH

nature

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Membrane proteomics

THE CHIMPANZEE GENOME



LETTERS

First fossil chimpanzee
Sally McBrearty & Mea G. Jablonski*

There are thousands of fossils of hominids, but no fossil chimpanzee. The first fossil chimpanzee was discovered in 2005 in the Rift Valley of East Africa. The fossil is a lower molar tooth, which is a type of tooth that is used for grinding food. The tooth is very similar to the teeth of modern chimpanzees and bonobos. The discovery of this fossil chimpanzee is significant because it provides the first direct evidence of a fossil chimpanzee. This discovery also challenges the long-standing view that chimpanzees and bonobos are the closest living relatives to humans. The discovery of the fossil chimpanzee is a major breakthrough in our understanding of the evolution of primates.

McBrearty, S. & Jablonski, N. 2005. First fossil chimpanzee. Nature 437:105-108.

