

Science Time

Program Content for June 14, 2017

Read the article 'Fossils of oldest Homo sapiens found in Morocco' on page A6 of the Thursday, June 8, 2017 edition of The Seattle Times.

Objective

- I can detail the importance of the discovery made at Jebel Irhoud, Morocco in relation to the origin of Homo sapiens.

Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) connection

Disciplinary core idea - *Evidence of Common Ancestry and Diversity*

- Anatomical similarities and differences between various organisms living today and between them and organisms in the fossil record, enable the reconstruction of evolutionary history and the inference of lines of evolutionary descent.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. fossil
2. origin
3. evolution
4. ancestor

Comprehension Questions

1. What is unique about the Homo sapiens fossils discovered in Morocco?
2. How does the discovery from above change what experts know about human origins?
3. How does the age of the recently discovered Homo sapien fossils in Morocco compare to the oldest fossils found in Ethiopia?
4. What are the closest living relatives to Homo sapiens?
5. Describe the characteristics of hominins.
6. What did earlier H. sapien fossil finds in Ethiopia suggest about the evolution of our species?
7. What was the name of the Moroccan fossil site where a few pieces of a skull found in 1961 were initially thought to be 40,000 years old?
8. How was thermoluminescence used to study flint blades?
9. Besides resetting the clock on humankind's debut, in what other way is the new Moroccan research notable?
10. How were the brains of individuals found at Jebel Irhoud different than those of modern human brains?
11. What interesting discoveries were made concerning flint blades at Jebel Irhoud.

Prompts and Extensions

1. Read a [preview](#) of the recently published article about the Moroccan H. sapiens discovery.
2. View a [slideshow of images](#) related to H. sapiens found at the Jebel Irhoud site in Morocco
3. Engage with an [interactive timeline](#) related to the origin of humankind.
4. Watch [this video](#) that focuses on answering the question, 'Did humans evolve?'

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