

**Adaptation-** a modification of behavior or of traits in response to outside influences; in biology, adaptation is a result of natural selection

**Arboreal-** living primarily in trees

**Archaeology-** the study of the past through material culture

**Art-** drawings, paintings, sculpture, or any other medium created specifically for an aesthetic value

**Behavior-** a pattern of actions in response to the individual's environment

**Bipedalism-** the ability to walk on two legs

**Culture-** the set of beliefs, traditions, and behaviors that are shared by a group of people

**Dentition-** related to teeth

**DNA-** deoxyribonucleic acid; the molecule through which genes are passed from parent to child

**Environment-** the natural surroundings where humans live including the available resources such as plants and animals as well as the weather conditions and the climate

**Evolution-** a gradual genetic change in a population due to processes such as natural selection or mutations

**Fossil-** remains, generally of plants or animals, in which the regular materials have been replaced with minerals, transforming those remains into a rock

**Hominid-** members of the family *Hominidae*, including great apes, humans, and human ancestors

**Hominin-** modern humans and human ancestors of the subfamily *Homininae*

**Hypotheses-** a potential explanation for a set of phenomena; a hypothesis must be testable using the scientific method

**Inheritance-** passing on of genes from parent to child

**Last common ancestor-** the most recent ancestor from which members of different groups evolved

**Omnivore-** an animal that eats both meat and plants

**Paleoanthropologist-** a person who studies human origins through fossils

**Spirituality-** beliefs related to human souls; can sometimes be related to religion

**Symbol-** an image or object that communicates a meaning other than the literal

**Temperate-** an environment that has a moderate temperature with very few extremes in weather patterns

**Terrestrial-** living primarily on the ground

**Tool-** an item that makes an activity easier; for example, a bow and arrow for hunting or a stone tools such as bifaces, hand axes, and cleavers for processing animals

**Tool industries-** categorization of tools based on physical characteristics and function

**Tradition-** world views and skills passed down through time in a cultural group

**Trait-** a characteristic, whether behavioral or genetic, that can be inherited

**Tropical-** an environment that is hot and humid with brightly colored plants and animals