**FOSSIL HOMININS**

**RECITATION SECTION WORKSHEET**

*This worksheet accompanies material covered in recitation and on the Anth 148: Humans Origin website at* [*https://archaeology.sites.unc.edu/anth-148-human-origins*](https://archaeology.sites.unc.edu/anth-148-human-origins)*.*

**STATION 1: GRACILE VS. ROBUST AUSTRALOPITHECINES**

Compare the gracile australopithecines (*Australopithecus afarensis* and *A. africanus*) and the robust australopithecines (*Paranthropus robustus* and *P. boisei*) skulls. Complete the following comparison chart:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Traits** | **Gracile Australopithecines** | **Robust Australopithecines** |
| **Zygomatic** |  |  |
| **Sagittal Crest** |  |  |
| **Cranial Capacity** |  |  |
| **Teeth and Palate Size** |  |  |
| **Prognathism** |  |  |
| **Temporal Fossa** |  |  |

**STATION 2: EARLY HOMO**

“Early Homo” fossils are often divided into two species (*Homo habilis* and *H. rudolfensis*). In comparing the two skulls, what morphological differences do you find most significant?



(*H. rudolfensis*)

**STATION 2A: TOOLS**

Examine the Oldowan and Acheulean stone tools. In what ways do they differ? What kinds of functions can you imagine them being used for? [*Note*: Oldowan is typically associated with *H. habilis* and Acheulean with *H. erectus*.]

**STATION 3: *HOMO ERECTUS* IN AFRICA AND ASIA**

Compare the following specimens: African *Homo erectus* (Nariokotome boy, OH 9); Asian *H. erectus* (Asian *H. erectus* and Indonesian *H. erectus*); European *H. erectus* (Dmanisi)

1. How does the Dmanisi skull differ from the African and Asian *H. erectus* skulls? [*Note*: Dmanisi is assigned to *H. erectus*, but is often viewed as intermediate between *H. habilis* and *H. erectus*.]
2. What are the differences between the African and Asian specimens? What are some similarities?

**STATION 4: ARCHAIC *HOMO SAPIENS***

Compare the Early Archaic *Homo sapiens*, Late Archaic *H. sapiens* (*H. neanderthalensis)*, and anatomically modern *H. sapiens* skull. Complete the following comparison chart:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Traits** | **Early Archaic *H. sapiens*** | ***H. neanderthalensis*** | **Modern *H. sapiens*** |
| **Sagittal Crest/Keel** |  |  |  |
| **Occipital Appearance** |  |  |  |
| **Facial Prognathism** |  |  |  |
| **Brow Ridges** |  |  |  |
| **Post-Orbital Constriction** |  |  |  |
| **Skull Width**  **(maximum)** |  |  |  |
| **Cranial Capacity** |  |  |  |