

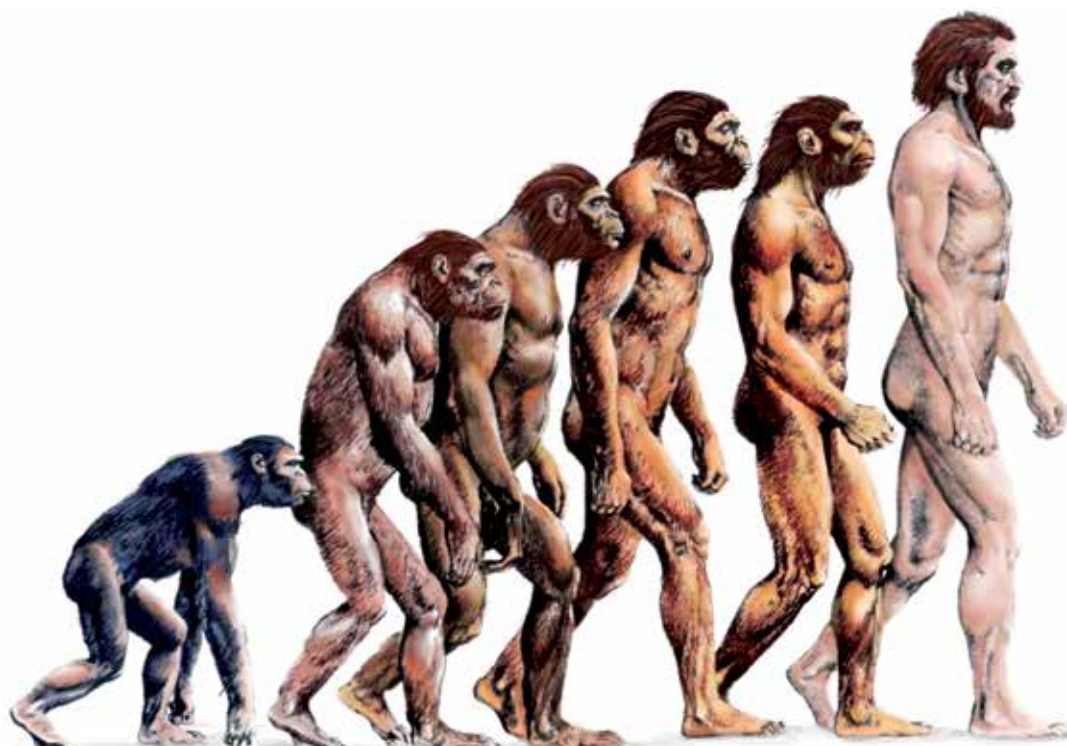
DARWIN'S THEORY OF EVOLUTION

Mankind, whose origin dates back to 30,000 years ago, developed during the ages and this evolution is proved by the presence of fossils and other paleontological remains. These fossils seem to support the theory of evolution, according to which creatures have changed over the time to adapt to their surroundings. According to this theory, which was constructed in the 19th century by the British scientist Charles Darwin, all living beings undergo changes and mutations in order to adapt to the environment where they live. Darwin conducted extensive research into the environmental adaptation of animals and found out that these evolutionary changes took place over geological times and were affected both by environmental and biotic¹ factors. The more a creature could adapt to the environment the greater chance it had of living, and these natural selection pressures led to what Darwin called the “survival of the fittest”. Human beings, who had evolved from apes,² became soon the dominant species on Earth as they are the most intelligent and enterprising³ of all animals, the only beings who have always had the desire to explore and understand what happens around them. Urged⁴ by the desire to improve their living conditions, human beings have also achieved great inventions in the field of science and technology.



GLOSSARY

- 1 produced or caused by living organisms
- 2 primates
- 3 showing initiative
- 4 driven



READING COMPREHENSION

● Answer the following questions.

- ① When did mankind first appear on Earth?
- ② What is evolution according to Darwin?
- ③ Why did mankind become the dominant species?

ACTIVITIES



VOCABULARY

● Read the text again and find the English equivalents of the following Italian words and expressions.

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|------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
| ① Resti | | ⑤ Sopravvivenza | |
| ② Ambiente circostante | | ⑥ Specie dominante | |
| ③ Mutazioni | | ⑦ Condizioni di vita | |
| ④ Tempi geologici | | ⑧ Ricerca | |