

EXTENDED

ODPOWIEDZI NA PYTANIA



3 Przeczytaj tekst. Odpowiedz na pytania 1–5. Na pytania należy odpowiedzieć w języku angielskim.

- 1 What has made the writer think about evolution?
- 2 What have been the main causes for changes in the human body since our hunting days?
- 3 What specific examples does he give of long-term evolutionary changes?
- 4 How does he explain the idea that humans are getting taller?
- 5 What fact does he mention to illustrate a more recent change?

Fish for words

4 Complete the sentences with the correct alternatives A or B.

- 1 In some countries children do not always their full growth potential because of poor diets.
A make B reach
- 2 It is possible that in the future parts of our brains will in size to allow other parts to grow larger.
A cut down B reduce
- 3 Parents can on resistance to some diseases to their children.
A give B pass
- 4 Improved diet definitely our life expectancy.
A increases B grows
- 5 We all need to in physical activity of some description to keep our weight down and bodies in shape.
A take B engage

5 Work in pairs. Translate the sentences into English. Then compare your translations to the sentences in the text in exercise 3.

- 1 Obecnie więcej dzieci pokonuje choroby wieku dziecięcego i osiąga pełny potencjał wzrostu.
- 2 Nasi przodkowie musieli angażować się w polowania.
- 3 Z biegiem czasu nasze kości szczęki zmniejszyły się.
- 4 Rodzice mogą przekazać swoim dzieciom odporność na te choroby.

Wrap it up

6 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 How likely do you think it is that advances in medical science will continue to extend life expectancy?
- 2 How do you think our lifestyles today will influence changes in our appearance in the future?



Constant changes

Most people would think that we, as humans, have reached an evolutionary point where our bodies have stopped changing. But I've noticed that people in their early twenties today are much taller than my generation, now in our late sixties, with much larger feet! This begs the question of whether the human body might still be evolving.

According to some scientists the topic is complex but the simple answer is yes, it is. The human body has altered quite significantly over the centuries, and this is down to changes in lifestyle, habitat and developments in our ability to use tools and technology. Our ancestors ate a plant-based diet which involved chewing raw leaves, so their teeth and digestive systems developed to deal with that. But as we incorporated meat to our diet about 2.6 million years ago, our bodies have adapted to that change too. Over time, our jaw bones have reduced in size and we need fewer teeth. That's why we have problems with teeth overcrowding, and some of us need to have dental braces fitted. In fact today many people's wisdom teeth, those at the very back, simply do not come through at all! Our bones are lighter too, because they don't need to support the running and climbing our ancestors used to have to engage in to hunt. But these changes have happened over a very long period of time.

To pick up on height and foot size, humans are, in general, regardless of their ethnic origin, taller than they were a hundred years ago – by up to ten centimetres. Records show that the entrances to many old houses built then were much lower than today's. Scientists believe that this is a result of improved childcare and diet over the last century. And, of course, better medical care. More children are surviving childhood diseases and reaching their full growth potential. Then, they might pass the immunity to those diseases on to their children. There is also evidence that our bodies are adapting to the higher fat content in modern fast food that results in a much stockier build, as well as to our increasing life expectancy. So, humans are generally getting bigger in several ways!