

Exercise Skull comparison

1st specimen: Gorilla skull

This skull doesn't seem to belong to the human lineage. Indeed, we can notice different characteristics which belongs to the Pan genus:

- Big teeth especially canines.
- Foramen magnum (=occipital hole) at the back of the skull
- Prognathic face
- Prominent brow ridges
- U shaped mandibula
- Small brain case

2nd specimen: Homo habilis skull

On the contrary, this skull seems to belong to the human lineage. Its characteristics match well with what we know of human skulls:

- Small teeth
- Flat face
- Big brain case

Skull comparison: fetal chimpanzee skull and fetal human skull

We can see small differences. The chimpanzee skull is more elongated, the human jaw is wider. Instead of that they look alike.

It shows that these two species are very close genetically speaking. Indeed, very soon in their development the skeletons are nearly same, undoubtedly because they have a lot of developmental genes in common.