

# Scientists say we are 'bigheads'

Scientists think they now know why all people have big brains and little jaws.

They say our heads look the way they do today because one of our genes - which determine things like your hair colour and height - changed during evolution.

They say early primate skulls - which look like today's gorillas and chimpanzees - had been "locked" by big muscley jaws that stopped skull growth.

But when the gene mutated, our jaws got weaker and our skulls could increase along with our brain size, they say.

## Big head

Today's humans have massive brains compared to all other mammals.

Fossils of prehistoric humans feature rounder skulls, flatter faces, smaller teeth and weaker jaws.

They show how we have dramatically changed over the ages.

But they are all examples of the post-gene mutation, as it is suggested by the scientists.

## Comprehension Questions

1. Look at the headline, what does it mean by 'bigheads'?

2. What reason do scientists give for our heads having the shape they do?

3. What do genes do?

4. Can you explain what evolution means?

5. In the third paragraph, it the word primate is used. What is a primate?

6. Define the word 'muscley'.

7. Can you explain what '...when the gene mutated...' means. Write another way of saying this.

8. How do human differ from other primates?

9. What did the fossils, found by scientists, show?

10. What type of scientist would dig for fossils?