Humans

Understanding the life of an animal is difficult. This is why for my research report, I chose to write about the human. Did you know that the scientific name for the human is ‘homo sapien’? When you break this down, this means ‘human being’. It is information like this that will be revealed throughout this report. I chose the homo sapien because it is something that I can understand, me being one myself. If you would like, you can read along to find out more information about the human being (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Since the beginning, humans have been classified by many things, the material things really. Their scientific classification is split into many things. As a kingdom, they are known as animalia. In a phylum, they’re known as chordata. There are much more consisting of mammalia (class), primates (order), hominidae (family), and homo (genus). The animals that it is closest to are lemurs, monkeys, and apes (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

The appearance of a human varies with each gene that you get. It also depends on your race and gender. Humans have hair on their entire body (head, face, arms, legs, etc.). Along with hair, humans have skin on their entire body. They have three layers of skin: epidermis, dermis, and hypodermis. Each layer of skin has an important job involving the functions of the human body. The epidermis (top layer) is thin and can be scraped off very easily but keeps the body safe from dirt and other infectious things. The dermis (middle layer) is thicker and contains blood vessels, nerve endings, sweat glands, and hair roots. Finally, there is the hypodermis (bottom layer) which holds fat cells. Women have an extra layer of hypodermis for protective reasons. (Seymour Simon, pg.10).

Continuing with looks, all humans are the same. We all have blood running through our veins, we all have heart beats, everything. There are some facial features that stand out more and originate from all around the world. There is also different skin colors of skin which generally range from a dark brown to a very light pink color. They get this color depending on the amount of melanin (skin pigment) that you have. This, amongst other things, is an adaptation. Melanin is a screen that protects against ultraviolet rays and solar radiation (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Now to the rest of the body. Each human has one pair of arms, legs, ears, eyes, feet, eyebrows, and hands. We have ten fingers, ten toes, 206 bones, a mouth (including teeth), and a nose with two nostrils. Along with these bones, we have joints so we can move our limbs in different ways. Under our skin, we have many organs and functions that keep us alive. The size of a human ranges. The tallest man (on record) was eight feet and eleven inches. The shortest man (on record) was twenty-one point five inches tall. Weight will depend not only on your diet but your height. Your body shape will also depend on your Body Mass Index. Anything about thirty is considered obese (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Humans can move in many ways. As infants, we begin to crawl using our hands and knees. Once we reach our later months, we learn to walk. Humans walk by standing up straight, using our two legs. We stand on our feet. From walking comes running. Running is a way of getting to your destination more quickly though is not necessary for survival all of the time. Some humans can also swim but it is not a natural instinct. Humans are mammals and do not have gills to breathe underwater. Locomotion is important for survival at times. When a human is put in danger, their first instinct is to run. Most humans find a different way of transportation through inventions such as the car, plane, train, etc (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Humans as a whole are omnivores which means that they are capable of consuming both meat and plants. A pure diet of plants or a pure diet of meat  has shown to be dangerous because it leads to diseases or a lack of certain vitamins that you need to survive. We can live two to eight weeks without food because we store the energy of the food in fat cells. Water is a different story. A human can only live three or four days. After then, you will dehydrate. On the food web, humans are at the very top. If we can kill it, we’ll eat it. Humans chew their food, ripping with their front teeth and then chewing with their back teeth. On average, 200,000 people die of starvation a year. There are others that are obese or overweight (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Everywhere you go, you will find humans. Humans can live in basically any climate and will adapt to it in time. In the seven continents of the world, we live in six of them. Antarctica is really the one place where no one lives because the climate is too cold for us to live. This does not mean that we do not go there from time to time. Deserts, jungles, swamps, and any other type of land mass that you can think of, you are sure to find a human there (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

With modern technology and our scientific knowledge, humans have come up with many different theories of evolution. In religion, they believe that God created humans. Scientific beliefs consist of evolutionizing from chimpanzees. This is because humans have many of the same characteristics as apes. We both have opposable thumbs along with other body parts. There is also molecular evidence of this. “Light will be thrown on the origin of man and his history,” written by Charles Darwin, a large contributor to the theory of evolution (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

The average life cycle of a human is split up into different categories: infancy, childhood, adolescence, young adulthood, adulthood, and old age. An infant is born after nine months in their mother, sometimes more or less. Women reach their full growth at eighteen; men at twenty-one. Puberty can start at twelve and end at fifteen. Life spans can vary with health and other situations. In 2002, there were 21,000 humans alive one hundred years and older (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Women have children by producing an egg from her ovaries. An egg can be fertilized with a male sex cell (sperm) through sexual intercourse. From there, the egg will be fertilized for eight weeks. It will then become a fetus. After nine months of pregnancy, a woman delivers a baby (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

Behavior has changed over the time that humans have inhabited the earth. Rise of civilization really started on 10,000 years ago. This was when we didn’t have to rely on hunting and gathering anymore. Around the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, humans found a way to build railroads and automobiles. Culture is also very big as is religion. Technology has also adapted to fit our daily needs. Though this is all fun and connects us to science, art, and great technology, it has also clashed with different cultures. We have had wars with different countries and have used weapons of mass destruction to hurt other humans (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

The only true enemy to the human is other humans. Being fast thinkers, humans have always found a way to fight back. There have been animal attacks but the largest killer of the human is another human. Humans can defend themselves with many things though use their technology. We have found ways to kill other humans with a small piece of metal. Self defense ranges. To attack someone, humans will use their hands and feet. Because humans are superior and have found a way to control everything around them, they are overpopulated. Just in the United States, there are over seven billion people (<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>).

In my own opinion, humans are very odd animals. We have reached the impossible and it is extremely cool. We have traded in our animalistic instincts to become civilized creatures. The places we have reached have astonished many. Since the beginning, we have been thinking of ways to make the world easier to live in. We have adapted from the hunter-gatherer state of mind and now have governments. We have started families, we’ve created technology to study other places. No other animal has done this. We are superior, we run the world (newworldencyclopedia.org).

We have come together whether with religion or other cultural activities. Yes, there have been some drawbacks in our history but this can be found in any sort of animal. We have learned with trial and error. Altogether, the human is a very curious creature and sometimes we get hurt by this. In other ways, we’ve discovered a way of life with running water and electricity. The only thing that really stamps us as an animal is the fact that we are mammals (newworldencyclopedia.org).

Of course there have been bad things in our history. Knowing so much about technology has become a way of hurting people. Weaponry and the control of it is something of a problem and has been debated for quite some time. What makes us so unique is the fact that we have come so far. Not everything is perfect, it never will be, but we are filled with culture. We are artistic and smart. We have created ways to communicate. We’ve created different beliefs and it really is a beautiful thing (newworldencyclopedia.org).

This is why for my research report, I chose the homo sapien. I would never want to be a different animal. Through my research, I have discovered that there is much more to us than meets the eye (newworldencyclopedia.org).

Works Cited Page

<http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Human_being>

Simon, Seymour. The Human Body. First Edition. New York, New York. 1350 Avenue of the Americas. 2008