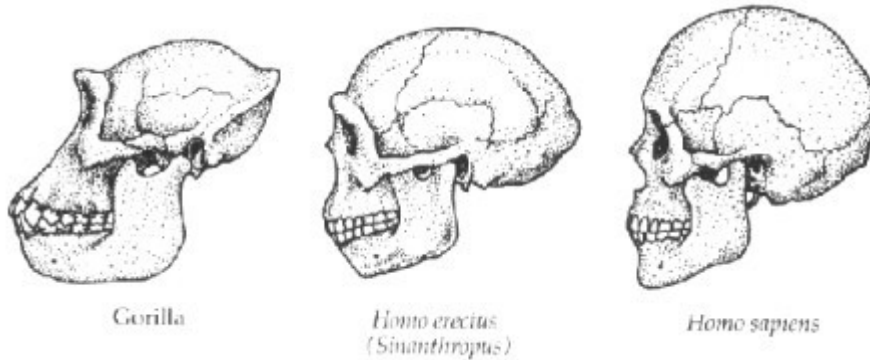


SC.912.L.15.1 – Evolution – Example 4 Answer

Scientists have found evidence that about 2.4 million years ago a gene regulating jaw muscles mutated and may have led to the more graceful human jaw we see today. The diagram below shows the skulls of 3 hominid species.



Which statement below most closely explains the link between jaw size and hominid evolution?

- A. The jaws of hominids evolved to be smaller and less protruding over time.**
- B. The jaws of hominids evolved to be larger and more protruding over time.**
- C. There appears to be no change in the jaws of hominids over time.**
- D. The jaws of hominids changed over time due to a change in brain size.**

Answer

- A. The jaws of hominids evolved to be smaller and less protruding over time.

Over time, the jaws of hominid species evolved to be smaller, lighter and less protruding. Scientist are now collecting evidence to support the theory that this change in jaw size allowed for larger brains to develop in hominids.