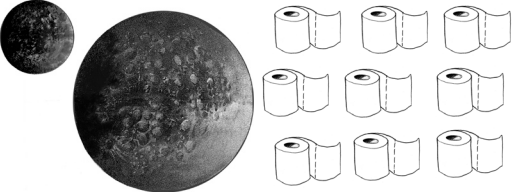
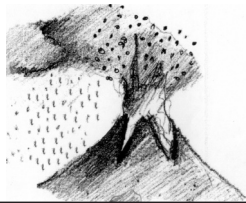
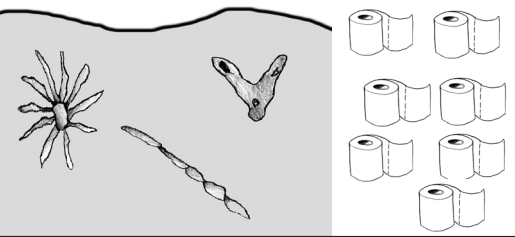
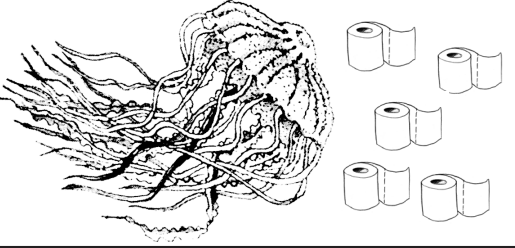

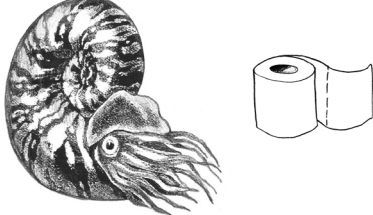
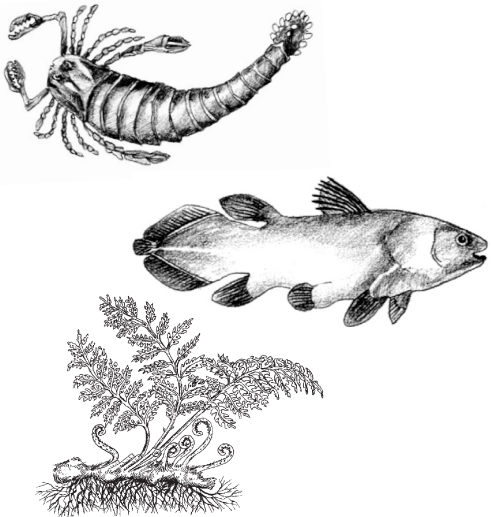
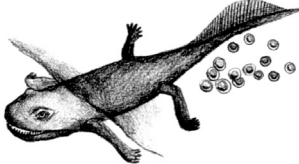
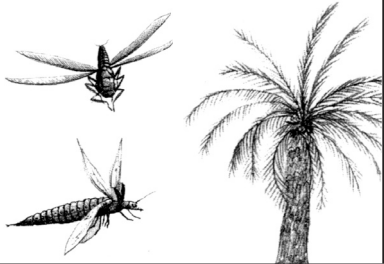
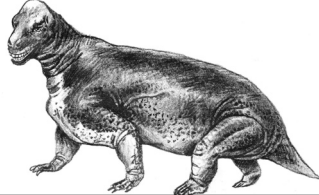
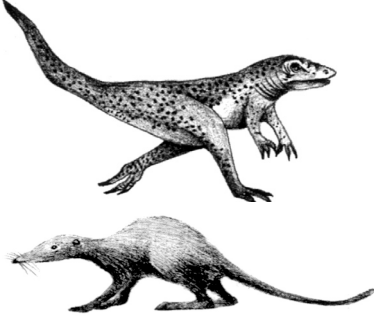


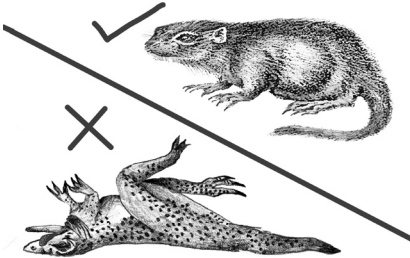
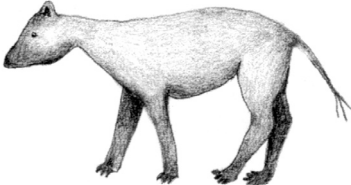


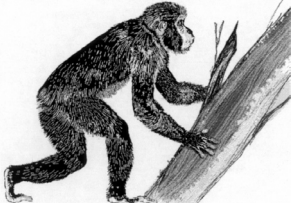

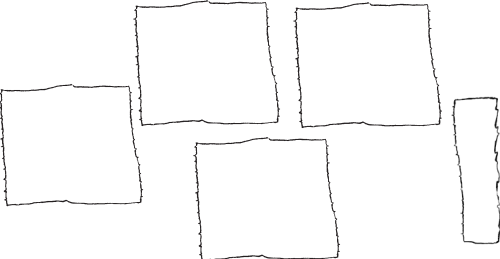

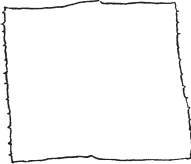


# EVOLUTION TIMELINE

<p><b>4 500 million (4,5 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>Formation of planet Earth and Moon – balls of hot rock (oldest rocks)</p>	
<p><b>4 300 million (4,3 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>Hot Earth cools down, the crust cracks, steam escapes. There are volcanoes, thunderstorms and the first rains fall. The first oceans form.</p>	
<p><b>3 500 million (3,5 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>The first living things appear – single-celled bacteria from chemicals in the sea, like tiny grains of dust.</p>	
<p><b>2 500 million (2,5 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>The first creatures with soft bodies and many cells, such as worms and jellyfish appear. No eyes!</p>	
<p><b>2 000 million (2 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>Evolution continues to continue ...</p>	
<p><b>500 million (1/2 billion) years ago</b></p>	<p>The first organisms with 'eyes' – many 'new' sea and freshwater squid-like creatures with shells – long, thin fish with soft backbones.</p>	
<p><b>450 million years ago</b></p>	<p>Large sea-swimming animals like sea scorpions and ancient sharks.</p> <p>Fishes with cartilage spines and fleshy fins with bones inside, e.g. coelacanth.</p> <p>Bony fish with scales and hard backbones.</p> <p>First plants grow on land (mosses and ferns).</p>	

# EVOLUTION TIMELINE

<p><b>350 million years ago</b></p>	<p>First land animals. Creatures come out of the water and onto the land – centipedes, air-breathing fish, 4-legged amphibians.</p>	
<p><b>300 million years ago</b></p>	<p>Mostly hot, wet climate. Forests of ferns and huge conifer trees (with seeds protected in cones). Many insects (6 legs), amphibians – fish-like frogs (that can live on land but have to breed in water).</p>	
<p><b>280 million years ago</b></p>	<p>First reptiles – lizard-like. They had scaly skin, ate plants and meat and laid hard-shelled eggs on land.</p>	
<p><b>200 million years ago</b></p>	<p>Dinosaurs – huge, cold-blooded reptiles.</p> <p>As dinosaurs grew in number, they destroyed other animal groups which became extinct.</p> <p>ALSO: First mammals (warm-blooded, furry, gave birth to live young and suckled them).</p>	
<p><b>150 million years ago</b></p>	<p>First birds – the scales of the dinosaur evolved into feathers. This made it possible for them to fly away from hungry dinosaurs and catch flying insects.</p>	
<p><b>80 million years ago</b></p>	<p>First plants that had flowers, seeds and fruits for reproduction. Pollinating insects.</p>	
<p><b>65 million years ago</b></p>	<p>Extinction of the dinosaurs. Mammals could now survive more easily. Start of the 'Age of the Mammal'.</p>	
<p><b>50 million years ago</b></p>	<p>The first small 'horse' – a dog-like animal that lived in the forests.</p>	

# EVOLUTION TIMELINE

<p><b>25 million years ago</b></p>	<p>'Proconsul' – a common ancestor of people and apes:          ~ hairy, no tail and small brain          ~ walked on four legs          ~ climbed trees.</p>	
<p><b>10 million years ago</b></p>	<p>'Proconsul' split into two groups:          a) forest apes with larger brains such as chimpanzees and gorillas          b) 'pre-humans' who lived in caves and hunted on the open veld.</p>	
<p><b>4,17 million years ago</b></p>	<p>'Little Foot' (Sterkfontein caves) – the earliest hominid in southern Africa and our earliest direct ancestor. (A hominid can walk on its back legs – the hands are free.)</p>	
<p><b>1,9 to 1,6 million years ago</b></p>	<p>'Handy Man' – the first user of stone tools, with a large brain. ALSO 'Work Man' who, a few thousand years later, was the first hominid to use fire for cooking. (Both from southern Africa.)</p>	
<p><b>1 million years ago</b></p>	<p>Global cooling – the most recent Ice Age. Forests shrink. Two-thirds of apes become extinct.</p>	<p>1 sheet of toilet paper left!</p> 
<p><b>160 000 (0,16 million) years ago</b></p>	<p>'Homo sapiens' – 'Wise man', the first modern humans. This is us! (Remains found in the Western Cape and Mpumalanga.)</p>	
<p><b>19 000 (0.019 million) years ago</b></p>	<p>Homo sapiens continues. The earliest rock art in southern Africa (San.)</p>	
<p><b>Today</b></p>	<p>Homo sapiens continues. We are taller than the early modern humans but still the same species.</p>	