

## **Becoming Human: The Birth of Humanity**

### **1. Why was the Homo erectus specimen found by the Leakeys at Lake Turkana, Kenya, such an important find?**

They discovered parts of the homo erectus that no had seen or heard about. For example, ribs were found— not only a skull

### **2. How do scientists know Turkana Boy's biological age? What does his pattern of growth say about his development and level of physical maturity?**

Groove plates on his limbs show that is limbs have not fused yet as found in adults (was still growing)

Turkana boy was about 14 years old.

Enamel found on teeth gain a line for everyday one is alive. Can figure out how old the person is by counting the lines. They discovered that the boy was not 14 years old but 8. He was 5 ft 8 inches at 8 years old. Faster physical maturity than humans

### **3. How did Turkana Boy get enough calories to support the energy requirements of his large brain and body?**

Animal protein (brain, marrow, and fat) high in protein and fats.

### **4. How are scientists able to make inferences whether Turkana Boy had body hair or not?**

Humans have two types of lice — head lice and pubic lice which differs from gorilla lice. When humans began to lose their body hair they only had the lice species on their head. When interacting with gorillas then they were introduced to gorilla lice.

Turkana body did not have hair --which allows for cooling

### **5. How do the individuals found at Dmanisi, Georgia differ from Turkana Boy?**

More primitive than Turkana boy— smaller, more ape-like shoulders, small brains, and used more primitive stone tools

### **6. What may have been the cause of Turkana Boy's death?**

sickness — an infection seen in the lower jaw