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GRADE 8

RATIONALISED

SOCIAL STUDIES LESSON

NOTES

STRAND 1 PEOPLE AND POPULATION.

1.1 Scientific theory about human origin.

- ✚ The scientific theory about human origin is also called the **evolution theory**.
- ✚ It was developed by Charles Darwin.
- ✚ The theory argues that all living organism underwent processes of change over millions of years by evolving from simple forms to complex forms.
- ✚ This happened through the processes of:
- ✚ **Mutation** -human organisms went through changes in their genes and the behaviour of their bodies.
- ✚ **Natural selection** -after mutation only the fittest or strongest organisms survived.
- ✚ **Adaptation** -after surviving mutation and natural selection, the organisms adapted to their new environment

Stages of Human evolution.

The following are stages of human evolution.

Aegyptopithecus.

- Was the earliest ancestor of both human beings and apes.
- Was discovered in Egypt.
- Moved on four limbs.
- Had a tail.

Dryopithecus.

- Had a flat skull and larger canines.
- Was discovered in Rusinga Island.
- Moved on four limbs.
- Had a pointed face.

Kenyapithecus or Ramapithecus.

- Had larger teeth and jawbone.
- Was discovered in Fort Tenan.
- Moved on two legs.
- Had a larger brain capacity.

Australopithecus.

- Had a loping forehead, projecting face and big eyebrows.
- Fossils were discovered in Ethiopia and Kenya.
- Walked upright and had a larger brain capacity than Kenyapithecus.