Smithsonian Institution
National Museum of Natural History
Activity Guide
Hall of Human Origins
Morning at the Museum
• Over the past 6 million years, humans have learned many important survival skills that we use today.
• You can take a journey to discover these important skills in the Hall of Human Origins.
• **Before you start your journey, think about things you do every day that help you grow to be a bigger, stronger, smarter kid.**
• (Hint: You are doing it right now. Look at your feet!!)
Walking on 2 Feet

• Did you know early humans walked on four legs?

• Learning to walk on two legs helped early humans live in different places all over the world.

• Can you find the foot print that looks like your foot print?
New Tools

• Early humans made tools out of stone.
• These tools helped humans gather food and build shelters.
• These tools helped humans live longer and in more places.
• Can you find a stone tool?
New Tools

- Early humans discovered fire.
- Fire gave light at night, helped keep humans warm when it was cold outside, and to cook food.
- **Can you find the exhibit that tells the story of humans’ use of fire?**
Bigger Bodies

- The human body changed to help humans live in warm and cold places.
- Taller, thinner bodies helped humans stay cool in the hot sun.
- Shorter, boarder bodies helped humans stay warm in the cold, snowy winters.
- Can you find the leg bone of an early human?
Bigger Brains

• Even the human brain grew bigger!
• A bigger brain helped humans talk to each other, make tools, and build shelters.
• Can you find the largest human brain?
Social Life

- Early humans worked together to help them survive.
- Each person had a job to do that helped the community.
- The communities worked together like you and your family.
- **Can you find the picture of the mother holding her baby?**
Telling Your Story

• Since the beginning, humans have been telling their story.
• Before paper and pencil or computers, humans told their story by drawing on the walls of caves.
• Can you find the cave with drawings on the wall?