

Writing Team – Project Brief

Your Role

You are the editors and authors shaping *The Story of Us* — our book about human evolution.

You've already written essays on early human species. These will form the foundation of the book. Your task now is to expand, refine, and connect those pieces into a single, coherent journey that helps readers understand how humans evolved and what it means to be human.

You'll use AI to help research, write, edit, and fact-check new sections for the book, making sure every page is accurate, engaging, and easy to follow.

About the role. Try this AI prompt:

We have a class project to write a book on evolution. It is out team's job to do the writing for the book. What decisions do we need to make before we start writing.

Your Main Tasks

- 1. Develop Species Profiles**
 - There are **15 species** in our evolutionary timeline.
 - Of these, **5 are Turning Point Species** — major stages where something important changed.
 - The remaining **10 are Link Species** — smaller steps that connect the story.
- 2. Your job:**
 - Decide how much detail to include for each type.
 - Write short, engaging summaries for the Link Species.
 - Expand the Turning Point Species into fuller features, explaining what changed, why it mattered, and how it led to the next stage.
- 3. Create the Big Picture Essays**
 - Write a new **Introduction** that sets the scene and explains why this story matters.
 - Write a **Conclusion** that reflects on what evolution tells us about being human.
 - Write a central essay called '**The Story of Us**' that shows the big sweep of evolution — how small changes built towards the humans we are today.
- 4. Edit, Connect, and Fact-Check**
 - Review and improve the original essays using AI for structure, tone, and clarity.
 - Use AI and reliable sources to check facts and correct errors.
 - Make sure all writing uses a consistent voice, style, and tense.

Fast Facts Framework

Each species page will include a *Fast Facts* box — quick, consistent information that helps readers compare species and see how humans evolved over time.

Your task is to decide what information should appear in every Fast Facts box.

Think like a scientist: what would a reader want to know at a glance?

Start by brainstorming categories such as:

- **Time period** – when they lived
- **Location** – where fossils were found
- **Brain size** – average cranial capacity
- **Physical traits** – height, build, unique features
- **Tool use or technology** – what they made or used
- **Diet or lifestyle** – how they survived

- **Social behaviour** – how they lived together
- **Evolutionary milestone** – what changed and why it mattered
- **Famous discoveries or fossil sites** – where key evidence was found

Once you have your ideas, use AI to help refine and agree on your final list.

AI Prompt for Developing the Fast Facts List

I'm part of a student writing team creating a book about human evolution. Each species in our timeline will have a short '*Fast Facts*' box summarising the key information. Please suggest a list of 8–10 categories that would help readers quickly understand and compare each species — such as brain size, time period, location, or major evolutionary changes. For each category, give a one-sentence explanation of why it's useful to include.

After using the prompt, discuss the results as a team and agree on your final *Fast Facts template*. You'll then use that same structure for every species.

How You'll Use AI

AI is your *assistant editor and research partner*, not your author. Use it to:

- Summarise long research into clear notes.
- Check or cross-check information against sources.
- Suggest ways to make your writing clearer or more engaging.
- Create sample openings or transitions between sections.
- Improve grammar and readability while keeping your voice.

Always review what AI gives you critically — *you* are responsible for the accuracy and tone of the final version.

Who You Work With

- **Graphics & Design Team:** to coordinate visuals and captions for each species.
- **Layout & Publishing Team:** to plan word counts and structure.
- **Editorial Board:** for feedback on tone, story flow, and final approval.

Key Idea

Your job is to make evolution readable, human and fascinating. You decide which details matter most, how to link every stage, and how to tell the story of us — clearly, accurately, and creatively.