

**M0006506: "Skeleton from Fish to Man", display from the American Museum of Natural History, central panel**

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# FISH TO MAN



PRIMITIVE REPTILE



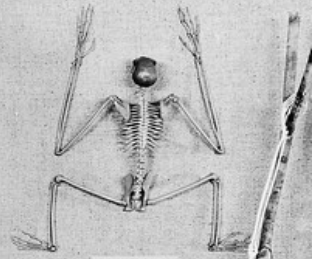
PRIMITIVE REPTILE OR PRO-MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE REPTILE



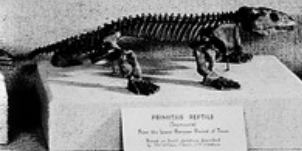
THE PROTO-MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



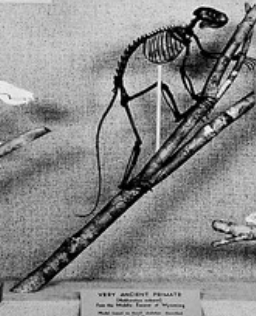
PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



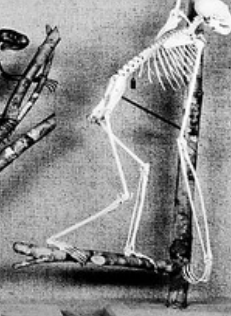
PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL



PRIMITIVE MAMMAL

In the swamp-living, air-breathing fishes, the pelvic fins were transformed first into pelvic girdles (Stage 2) and then into limbs (Stage 3), as the animals crawled out of the swamps. After many ages, mammals invaded the uplands (Stage 4) learning to run about like turtles and lizards.

Next, they learned to raise the belly off the ground and run about (Stage 5). Then they climbed up into the trees and became very expert in running and leaping about among the branches (Stages 6, 7, 8).

At first these tree-living animals ran about mostly on top of the branches (Stage 7). Then some of their descendants adopted the 'suspension grasp' as they began to swing from branch to branch. The gibbon, Stage 8, is rather overspecialized in this direction.

Avoiding extreme overspecialization (swinging with arms) the ancestors of man swung down from the trees, running perpendicular on all fours but more and more on two feet. The gibbons when on the ground