

**M0006507: "Skeleton from Fish to Man", display from the American Museum of Natural History, right panel**

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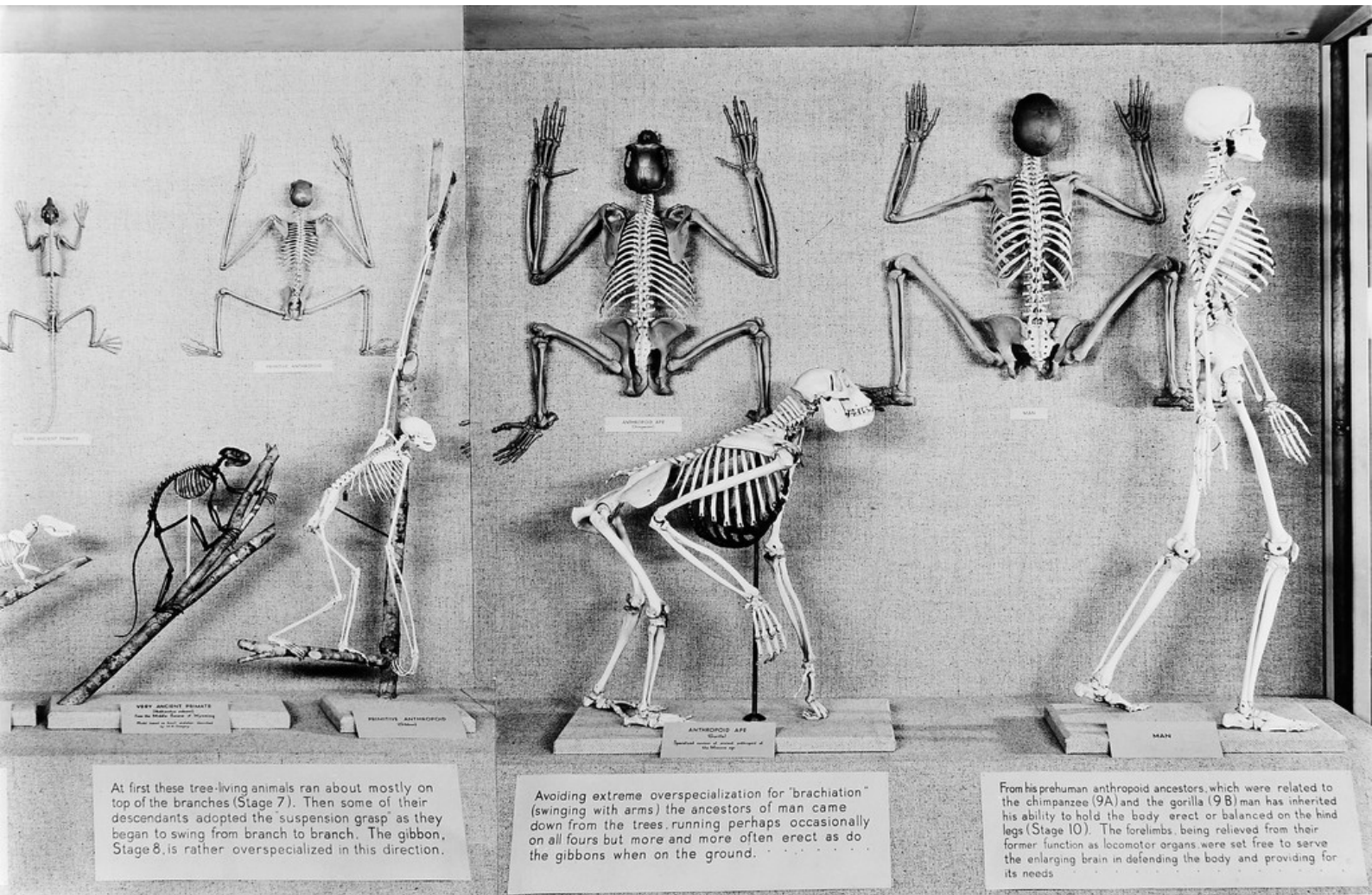
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At first these tree-living animals ran about mostly on top of the branches (Stage 7). Then some of their descendants adopted the 'suspension grasp' as they began to swing from branch to branch. The gibbon, Stage 8, is rather overspecialized in this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

Avoiding extreme overspecialization for 'brachiation' (swinging with arms) the ancestors of man came down from the trees running perhaps occasionally on all fours but more and more often erect as do the gibbons when on the ground.

From his prehuman anthropoid ancestors, which were related to the chimpanzee (9A) and the gorilla (9B) man has inherited his ability to hold the body erect or balanced on the hind legs (Stage 10). The forelimbs, being relieved from their former function as locomotor organs were set free to serve the enlarging brain in defending the body and providing for its needs.