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"Piecing together the story of human evolution is no easy task. The anthropologist Richard Leaky has identified four key steps in our evolution from the earliest hominid to modern humans. First, the occurrence of binedilism between 10 and 4 million years ago. Then the evolution of Homo, with its large brain and capacity to make stone tools -- the earliest examples of which are 2.5 million years old. Next, the evolution of Hemo erects almost 2 million years ago, followed by it migration out of Africa into Eurasia. And finally the appearance of modern human less than 150000 years ago."

"Through the 10 million years of human evolution, the Earth's climate has changed considerably. During the period that Michael Sarrnthies of Kie has the "Golden Era" -- up to 3 million years ago -- the world was much warmer than it is now. Then conditions started to deteriorate, and there was a gradual build-up of ice at the poles. Around 2.6 million years ago the climate became cyclical: ice ages characterized by huge ice sheets covering much of North American and northern Europe were followed by inter-glacial, when conditions were comparable to those we see today. Elizabeth Vrba of Yale University, one of the most vigorous

## *Different Arts of Writing*

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proponents of the idea of punctuated equilibrium, has shown that this change in the world's climate 2.6 million years ago had sudden and dramatic effects in Africa. A predominantly warm and moist climate was transformed into one which was colder and more arid." (Mark Maslin)

### ➤ **Questions**

① How did the climate become cyclical?

Ans. The Earth's climate became cyclical through considerable changes. During the "Golden Era" --- up to 3 million years ago --- it was much warmer than it is now. Then around 2.6 million years ago, the conditions started to deteriorate, and a gradual build-up of ice at poles. Huge ice sheets covered much of North America and northern Europe than today.

② Define the term "Golden Era"

Ans. Up to 3 million years ago, during the period that Michael Sarrathies of Kie has said to be "Golden Era". As during this era, the Earth's climatic conditions started to deteriorate, and there was a gradual build-up of ice at the poles.

③ Describe the various stages in the development of the human species.

Ans

According to the anthropologist Richard Leaky, there exist four steps in evolution from the earliest hominid to modern humans. First, the occurrence of bipedalism between 10 and 4 million years ago. Second, the evolution of Homo, with its large brain and capacity to make stone tools around 2.5 million years ago. Third, the evolution of Homo erectus almost 2 million years ago, and finally, the appearance of modern human less than 150,000 years ago.