



*How Humans Evolved*, Third Edition, by Robert Boyd and Joan B. Silk, is a compelling account of the evolution of the human species. This successful introductory text shows how an understanding of evolutionary theory and a knowledge of primate behavioral ecology can be combined with clues from the fossil and archaeological records to explain why we look and act the way we do. The new edition has been thoroughly updated to reflect recent developments in the discipline.

The authors begin with a thorough discussion of evolutionary processes and then apply evolutionary principles to the behavior and ecology of our closest living relatives—the nonhuman primates. Next, *How Humans Evolved* traces the history of the human lineage through the fascinating complexities of the fossil and archaeological records, integrating principles from evolutionary theory and the study of living primates. The authors conclude the book with a section on contemporary humans that thoughtfully illustrates how understanding evolutionary processes and human evolutionary history can produce important insights into contemporary human nature.

The Third Edition includes a student version of the popular CD-ROM *Human Evolution: A Multimedia Guide to the Fossil Record* created by Phillip Walker (University of California, Santa Barbara) and Edward Hagen. This informative and dynamic 3-D collection of fossil specimens dramatically illustrates the diversity of the human lineage and has been revised to reflect changes in the new edition of *How Humans Evolved*.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**ROBERT BOYD** is professor of anthropology at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has written widely on evolutionary theory and on mathematical models of cultural evolution.

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COVER DESIGN: JOAN GREENFIELD

COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN READER

The footprints on this book cover were made about 3.6 million years ago by a hominid walking through then moist volcanic ash in what is now Laetoli, Tanzania. Mary Leakey and her team excavated these partly exposed tracks, eventually uncovering some 70 footprints in two parallel tracks about 30 meters long. The tracks are unmistakably human in appearance, yet no currently known fossils match them exactly.

ISBN 0-393-97854-0



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