similarity to other species

physical attributes of the human species

behavioral attributes of the human species

use of technology

9-12

Fossil and molecular evidence supports the idea that human beings evolved from earlier species.

The complexity of the human brain allows humans to create technological, literary, and artistic works on a vast scale, and to develop a scientific understanding of the world.

The similarity of humans in their cell chemistry and DNA sequences reinforces the idea that all humans are part of a single species.

The human ability to influence the course of history comes from its capacity for generating knowledge and developing new technologies -- and for communicating ideas to others.

The degree of relatedness between organisms or species can be estimated from the similarity of their DNA sequences, which often closely match their classification based on anatomical similarities.

Similar patterns of development and internal anatomy suggest relatedness among organisms.

6-8

The cells in similar tissues and organs in other animals are similar to those in human beings but differ somewhat from cells found in plants.

Like other complex organisms, people vary somewhat in size and shape, skin color, body proportions, body hair, facial features, muscle strength, handedness, and so on. But these differences are minor compared to the overall similarity of all

Technology is largely responsible for the great revolutions in agriculture, manufacturing, sanitation and medicine, warfare, transportation, information processing, and communications that have radically changed how people live and

Written records and photographic and electronic devices enable human beings to share, compile, and use great amounts of information.

Although social behaviors are affected by both genes and environmental factors, human beings are still able to invent, learn, and modify a wide variety of these behaviors.

Technologies having to do with food production, sanitation, and health care have dramatically changed how people live and work and have resulted in rapid increases in the human population.

Human beings use technology to match or exceed many of the abilities of other species.

Like other animals, human beings have body systems for obtaining and deriving energy from food and for defense, reproduction, and the coordination of body functions.

Interactions among the senses, nerves, and brain make possible the learning that enables human beings to predict, analyze, and respond to changes in their environment.

3-5

People can learn about others from direct experience, from the mass communications media, and from listening to other people talk about their work and their lives.

Like language, ritual, commerce, and the arts, technology is an intrinsic part of human culture, and it both shapes society and is shaped by it.

Technology has helped people with disabilities survive and live more conventional lives.

People have invented devices such as paper and ink, engraved plastic disks, and magnetic tapes for recording information. These devices enable great amounts of information to be stored, retrieved, and sent to other people or

Human beings have made tools and machines to sense and do things that they could not otherwise sense or do at all, as quickly, or as well.

K-2

People need water, food, air, waste removal, and a particular range of temperatures in their environment, just as other animals do.

People have different external features, such as the size, shape, and color of hair, skin, and eyes, but they are more like one another than like other animals.

People can learn from each other by telling and listening, showing and watching, and imitating what others do.

Early forms of recording messages used markings on materials such as wood or stone.

People have always tried to communicate with one another. Signed and spoken language was one of the first inventions.