

## Chapter 3. Our Collective Story: Human Commonalities

### Chapter 3. G. Media

#### **National Geographic: The Human Family Tree**

2009, 96 minutes, available on Netflix

Charting human history from its ancient roots in Africa to its startling evolution over time, geneticist Spencer Wells and his fellow scientists with National Geographic's Genographic Project uncover fascinating truths about the commonalities of man. The program focuses on a diverse group of New Yorkers, using samples swabbed from the inside of their cheeks, as a starting point for analyzing their origins. 3.9 stars

I have seen this one, interesting but not that great.

#### **The Human Spark**

2009NR180 minutes

Drawing on the theory that a catalytic "spark" converted humankind from just another species to planetary top dog, actor and science enthusiast Alan Alda spearheads a transcontinental hunt for the origins of that signal shift. The pursuit begins among the Paleolithic cave paintings of Lascaux, leads to a comparison study of humans and chimps in Puerto Rico, then lands Alda back where he started -- in a detailed neuro-scan of his own brain. 3 stars

#### **Human Planet**

2011NR3 discs, available on Netflix

This sweeping documentary series explores the daily interaction between humans and the natural world, taking viewers to witness reindeer herding in Norway, icebreaking. 4.2 stars

#### **Universally Human Commonalities**

1 minute video, good model for possible student YouTube clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNLDX8fk6Lw>