



"Am I tall because I'm Dutch?" Why are Dutch people so Tall? - BBC

Source:
<https://bbc.in/3ShJvyF>

LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch the video twice and answer the questions below.

1. Where is the presenter from?
2. We are about 5% taller than our ancestors from how long ago?
3. How much taller are people in Holland today compared to two centuries ago?
4. Between shorter, taller and average-height women in Holland, who had higher fertility rates? For men?
5. What factors impact average height around the globe?
6. Why is height such a useful genetic trait for scientists?
7. What percentage of the population is affected by growth failure?

VOCABULARY

"I'm five foot eight" = the structure for giving height in imperial measurement
"Time will tell" = the answer will be revealed at some moment in the future
"It begs the questions" = to raise a point that has not been dealt with
fertility = the ability to conceive children or young
blueprint = a plan that can be reproduced

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

What are your reactions to the phrases below? Discuss with a partner.

- a. Taller people enjoy a better life than shorter people.
- b. I'd rather be too short than too tall.
- c. I'm not a fan of the Dutch.
- d. People are getting more beautiful, too!
- e. Humans stopped evolving a long time ago.
- f. It'll be great when we can choose specific genes for our babies.
- g. Health and wealth are too closely linked these days.
- h. People are people. We haven't changed much in the last 200 years.
- i. It's weird to see a couple where the woman is taller than the man.
- j. Genes are not as important as the family you grow up in.
- k. I think people will evolve to become more... less...



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LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Watch the video twice and answer the questions below

1. Where is the presenter from?

The presenter says she is Dutch, so she is from the Netherlands.

2. We are about 5% taller than our ancestors from how long ago?

We are 5% taller than our ancestors from about 100 years ago.

3. How much taller are people in Holland today compared to two centuries ago?

The average height has increased 20 centimeters since 200 years ago.

4. Between shorter, taller and average-height women in Holland, who had higher fertility rates? For men?

Average-height women had higher fertility rates than shorter and taller women in Holland. Taller men had higher fertility rates than shorter men.

5. What factors impact average height around the globe?

The differences are due to genes, different environments, lifestyle improvements and social economic status.

6. Why is height such a useful genetic trait for scientists?

It is a complex trait and also very easy to measure.

7. What percentage of the population is affected by growth failure?

7 It affects about 3-5% of the population.