

# Still Evolving After All These Years



Are you bigger or smaller than your grandparents were at your age? What about your great-grandparents? Instead of digging up the family records, make a graph of the data below and see if it gives you a clue as to what you might find.

## Chart 1

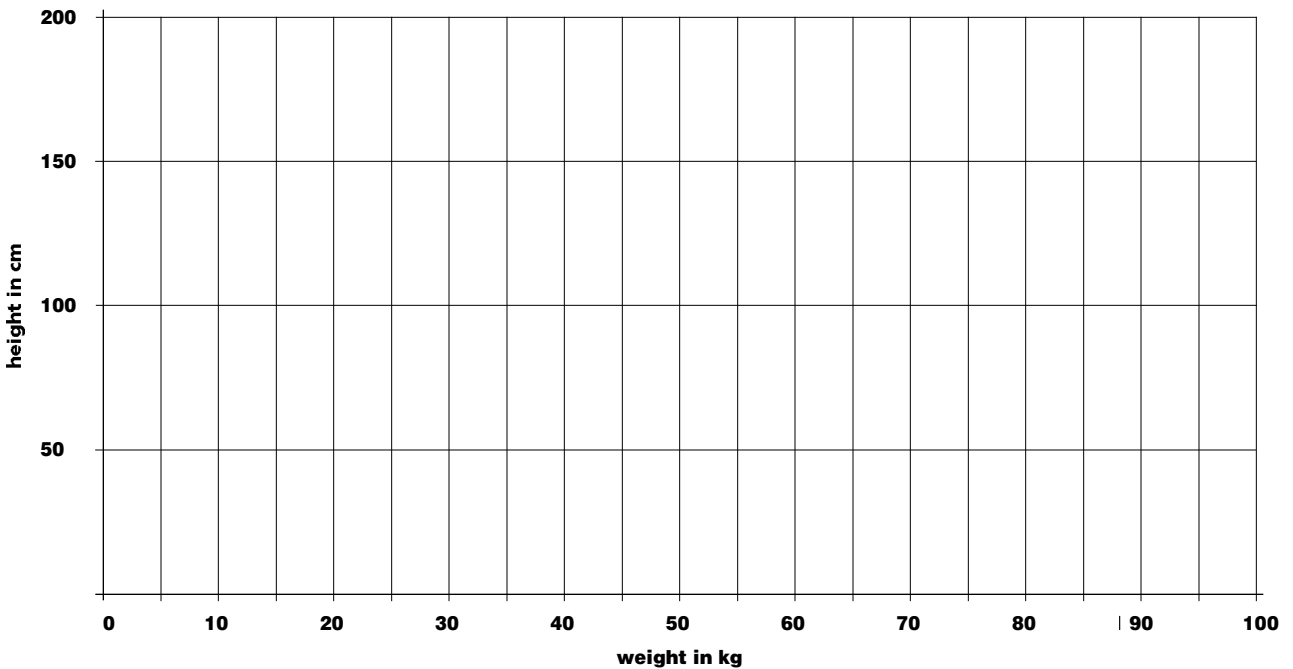
Average Height (in centimeters) of North American Boys

Age	birth	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
1880	50	82	95	108	118	127	138	149	162	169	170
1960	60	90	104	117	128	137	149	163	170	172	172

## Chart 2

Average Weight (in kilograms) of North American Boys

Age	birth	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
1880	3 kg	12	15	18	23	27	33	40	52	58	58
1960	4 kg	13	17.5	22	27	34	43	54	62	67	69



**1** What can you conclude from your graphs? What other evidence might you want to collect to prove that we are still getting bigger? How useful are these data in helping you to draw conclusions about the relative sizes of other groups of humans besides North American boys? What are some possible explanations for this increase in size?

**2** If these data charts were not available, how might anthropologists have discovered this growth increase in boys over the past century? What artifacts of the past could we compare to contemporary items to document the increasing size of Americans?