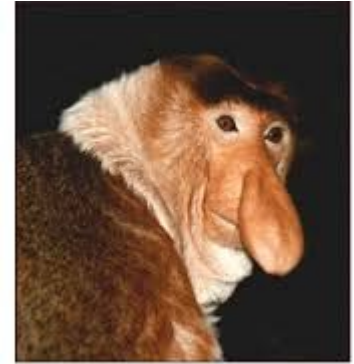


## Order: Primata

All primates have certain features in common. They have shortened snouts, with fewer teeth than most mammals, but more teeth varieties. Their eyes face forward, giving them 3-D vision. They have three middle-ear bones, collar bones, and separate bones in the forearm and lower leg. All primates have nails instead of claws, opposable thumbs, and (mostly) feet that can grasp. There is a trend toward a vertical posture, and a difference in how hind and fore-limbs are used. Brains are large, with increased visual abilities, socialization, and hand-eye coordination.



### Prosimians (pre-monkeys)

**Lemurs:** Most lemurs spend their lives in the trees. They range in size from mouse-like to 15 pound lemurs which are as big as a large house cat. The aye-aye has a very long finger used for gathering insects. All lemurs have good smell and vision. Almost all lemurs are found on the island of Madagascar.

Family *Cheirogaleidae*: Dwarf and mouse lemurs

Family *Daubentoniidae*: Aye-aye

Family *Lemuridae*: Lemurs

Family *Lepilemuridae*: Sportive lemurs

Family *Indriidae*: Woolly Lemurs



**Lorises:** The slow loris has a poison gland. It can mix this in its mouth to deliver a poisonous bit. Animals in this group have very large eyes and tend to be nocturnal. Lorises move very slowly, except then trying to attack prey. The pottos of Africa have lost their index (pointer) finger over time.

Family *Lorisidae*: Lorises and pottos

Family *Galagidae*: Galagos



### Anthropoids / Simians (tarsiers, monkeys, apes, humans)

#### **Tarsiers**

Family *Tarsiidae*: Tarsiers. Tarsiers are the only completely carnivorous primate. It mostly eats insects, but can eat other prey. They are small with very large eyes.



**New-world monkeys (flat-nosed monkeys):** These monkeys have prehensile (grasping) tails, and can support their weight by their tail alone. New World monkeys do not have opposable thumbs (mostly)

Family *Callitrichidae*: Marmosets and tamarins

Family *Cebidae*: Capuchins and squirrel monkeys

Family *Aotidae*: Night owl monkeys

Family *Pitheciidae*: Titis, sakis, and uakaris

Family *Atelidae*: Howler, spider, wooly monkeys



Both marmosets and tamarins are small, often with tufts or ruffs of fur around their heads. The Emperor tamarin looks like he has a mustache. Capuchin and squirrel monkeys are often portrayed as the typical “pet” monkey, weighing up to ten pounds. Night monkeys live in the canopy of the rain forest and look like tarsiers. Spider monkeys have long limbs and a tail. Howler monkeys have a very loud call that have been heard three miles away. Other types of monkey are also found in the rainforest.

## Old-world monkeys (pointed-nosed monkeys)

Family *Cercopithecidae*: Baboons, macaques, colubus, proboscis, langurs  
Old-world monkeys do not have prehensile tails, but their tails are used primarily for balance. These monkeys are found mostly in Africa and Asia. The nostrils of Old-World monkeys have downward facing nostrils. Many of them have unusual coloring or unusual body plans. Most of these are omnivores. Some, like the macaques, are very social. Colubus monkeys vary in color, with the black and white vaguely resembling skunk monkeys.



## Hominoidea (Apes and humans)

Family *Hylobatidae*: Gibbons and “lesser apes”: These small apes bear a lot of resemblance to the baboons, but are tailless and have different behavior. These tend to form pair bonds, and live in south-east Asia.

Family *Hominidae*: Great apes, including humans. These are the larger apes, ranging from 70 pound bonobos to 400 pound gorillas. Most prefer fruit, but other plants and some meat is eaten.

Genus *Pongo*: Orangutans. These red apes live in south-east Asia. Males and females look different, with the males having cheek pads on the sides of their face. These tend to be solitary and intelligent. Their hands resemble human hands with longer fingers. Orangutan feet have an opposable toe.



Genus *Gorilla*: Gorillas. The largest ape is the gorilla. They live in Africa, and have about 95 - 98% of their DNA in common with humans. Only the two types of chimps are more similar. (Funny: Gorilla means “tribe of hairy women” in Greek.) Gorillas live in troops composed of one adult male (silverback) with multiple adult females and their offspring. As young gorilla males grow, they leave their own troops and roam together. Gorillas “nest” in trees at night with bunches of branches they build for a bed. A few gorillas in captivity have learned sign language and tool usage.



Genus *Pan*: Chimpanzees, Bonobos. Chimpanzees have 94-99% similar DNA to humans. Chimps have longer arms than legs, and may weigh up to 150 pounds. They walk on all fours (knuckle walking) but can go upright. The social behavior of the common chimp is based on hunting and is led by an alpha (lead) male. Bonobos are female-led and have a culture based on physical contact rather than aggression. Both types are highly intelligent.



**Extinct genera**, similar to humans: *Australopithecus*, *Paranthropus*, *Sahelanthropus*, *Orrorin*, *Ardipithecus*, *Kenyanthropus*

Several extinct lines of creatures resemble both humans and apes. These may be ancestors, though most scientists believe these are branches that have gone extinct. Some are more ape-like than others.



Genus *Homo*: Us. *Homo sapiens* is the only surviving member of the *Homo* genus. Other groups include *Homo habilis*, *Homo erectus*, etc. The Neanderthals are a very close relative, and some Neanderthal DNA is in modern humans. All humans on earth belong to the same species, no matter their location or race.

