

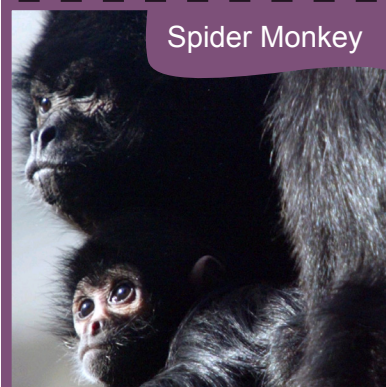
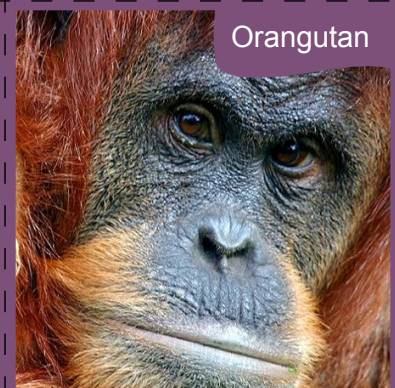
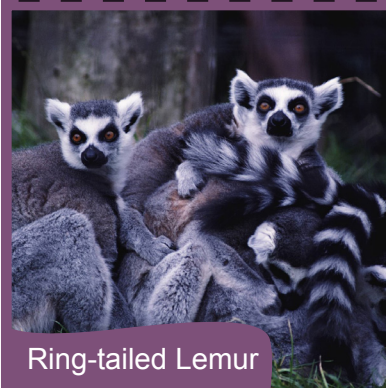
PRIMATE ANCESTRY ACTIVITY - GUIDE

When thinking about human psychology, which group of animals might we look at?

Primates are a fascinating order of mammals which, as humans, we are a part of - therefore we can look at our own place within this broad family of animals.

Below are seven primate species for you to cut out. Put them in a row in the order of how closely related you think they are to a human – from the least related on the left, and our closest relative on the right.

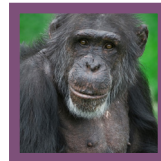
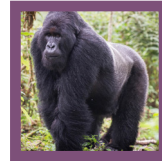
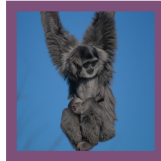
Once you think you have the right answer, look at the answers to see if you were correct and find out more about each species! No peeking before though.



PRIMATE ANCESTRY ACTIVITY - ANSWERS

When looking at how closely related we are to each of these primates, we look at when we last shared a common ancestor in our evolution. This relatedness also plays a part in the classification of primates in the binomial system.

Correct order - from least to most related...



7. Ring-tailed Lemur: Sharing the most distant common ancestor with humans, lemurs, lorises, bushbabies and tarsiers belong to a group called commonly referred to as **Prosimians**. Of all the primates, these are the *least related* to humans. The lemur ancestor (*Infraorder: Lemuriformes*) arrived on Madagascar approximately 54 million years ago, where lemurs were able to thrive without competition from more intelligent primates.

The ancestor of humans however was left in a group referred to as Simians (*Infraorder: Simiiformes*), sometimes known as “higher primates”, which evolved into Monkeys & Apes.

6. Spider Monkey: Approximately 40 million years ago, the Simians split with the **New World Monkeys** (*Parvorder: Platyrrhini*) who separated onto one side of the Atlantic in South America.

5. Mandrill: On the east side of the Atlantic however, in Africa and Asia remained the Parvorder: Catarrhini. 25 million years ago, these diverged into **Old World Monkeys** (*Superfamily: Cercopithecoidea*), which the Mandrill belong to, and Apes (*Superfamily: Hominoidea*)

4. Silvery Gibbon: Belonging to the group of **Lesser Apes** (*Family: Hylobatidae*) they diverged approximately 16.8 million years ago, while our ancestor continued its path as a Great Ape.

3. Orangutan: Of the **Great Apes** (*Family: Hominidae*), the ancestor of Orangutans (*Genus: Pongo*) diverged from our common ancestor approximately 15.7 million years ago, splitting into three living species.

2. Gorilla: The next **Great Ape** to diverge from the common ancestor, 7-9 million years ago, and split into two living species (*Genus: Gorilla*)

1. Chimpanzee: Our closest living relatives are in the genus **Pan** (Chimpanzees and Bonobos), which diverged from our common ancestor 5-7 million years ago.

By understanding when we last shared a common ancestor with these relatives, we can look for similarities in tool use, social grouping, communication and attachment to gain an understanding of when such behaviours may have evolved in our own ancestor.