

Key Terms, Concepts and questions to ponder

Lecture 5: Primates - their importance in understanding human evolution

You should become familiar with the following terms and concepts from this lecture and your accompanying readings in Campbell *et al.* You should also give some consideration to the problems and issues mooted in the "To Ponder" section.

Vocabulary

Primates

Prosimii (prosimians)

lemurs

lorises

tarsiers

Anthropoidea (anthropoids) - monkeys, and apes including humans

Ceboidea - Platyrrhini - New World monkeys

Cercopithecoidea - Catarrhini - Old World monkeys

Hominoidea (hominoids) - apes, lesser and greater including humans

Hylobatidae (hylobatids) - gibbons and siamangs

Pongidae (pongids) - orangutans

Panidae (panids) - gorilla, chimpanzee, bonobo (pygmy chimp)

Hominidae (hominids) - humans

features characterizing Primates

features characterizing hominoids

reproductive strategies: parental investment

K - selection - pattern of few offspring and extensive parental care

r - selection - pattern of large number of offspring and little parental care

To Ponder

-) What selection pressures might have selected for bonobo behaviors?
-) What selection pressures might have selected for chimpanzee behaviors?
-) How does the environment contribute to selection pressures in terms of
 - distribution of food resources?
 - availability of safety and shelter?
 - presence of predators?
-) What behavioral characteristics are likely to have been displayed by the common ancestor of chimps, bonobos and humans?
-) Can we always recognize when similar modern traits are derived from a common ancestor, as opposed to similarities which evolved in parallel?
-) What is the role of sexual dimorphism in Primate species?
-) What are the roles of canines and canine dimorphism in Primates?