

General Characteristics of Higher Primates

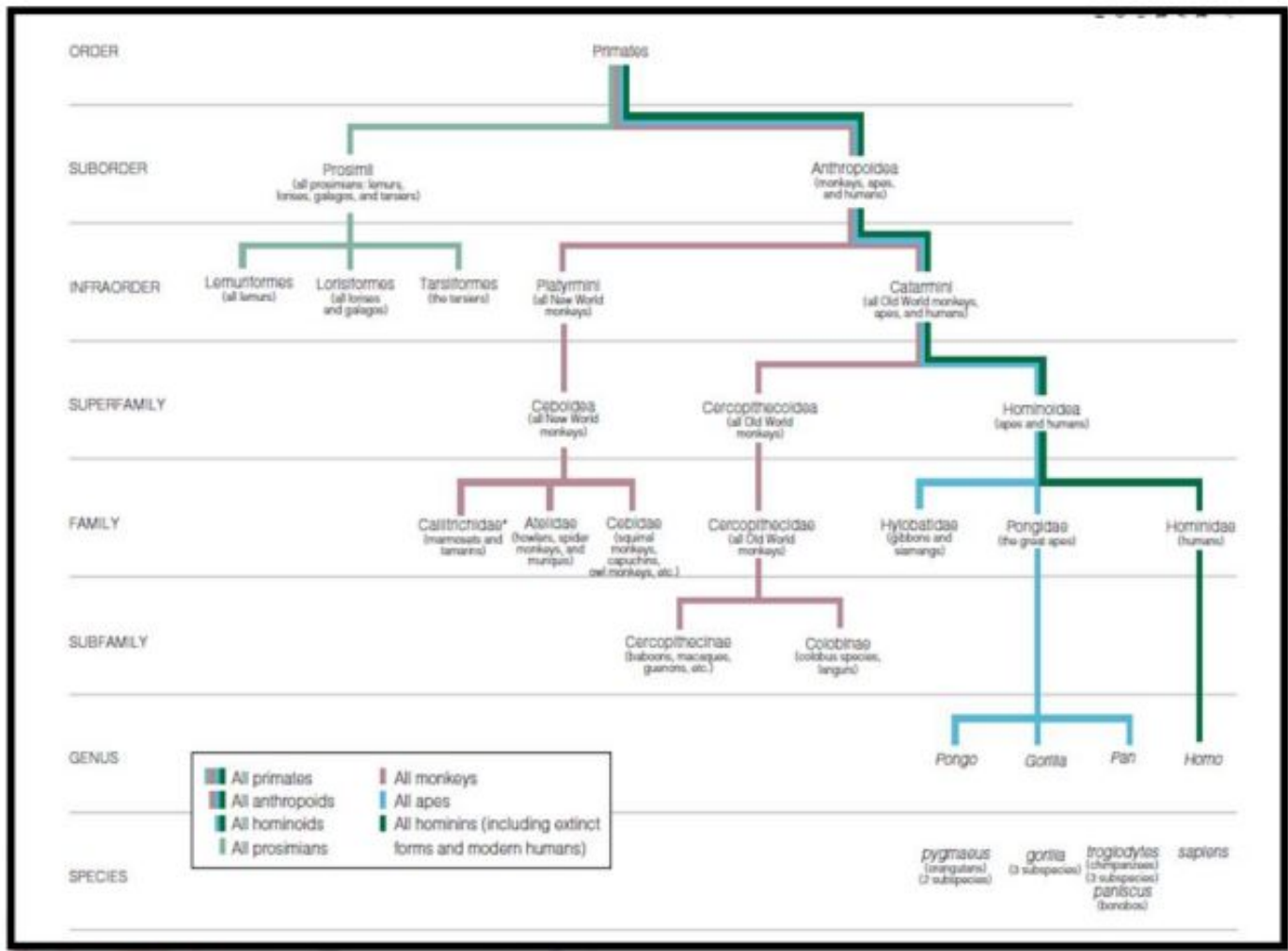
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Content

General Characteristics of

- **Monkey (Pithecoids Stage)**
 - Ceboidea
 - Cercopithecoidea
- **Apes(Homonoid Stage)**
 - Greater Apes (Orangutan, Chimpanzee, Gorilla)
 - Lesser Apes (Gibbons, Siamang)
- **Human(Hominid Stage)**



Ceboidea

- Infra Order - Platyrrhine(New World Monkey)
 - Family - Ceboidea
- Eg. Woolly Monkey, Howler Monkey, Pygmy Marmosets, Titis, Uakaris, Sekis, Spider Monkey(Ateles), Night Monkey(Aotus).
- They have broad, flat and outward directed nostrils.
- They have long prehensile tail.
- They are of varying sizes, smaller to larger.
 - E.g. howler monkeys are largest, pygmy marmosets are smallest.
- They have arched nail.
- Big toe and thumbs are slightly opposable.
- Stomach is of simple type.
- Dental Formula - 2:1:3:3

Howler Monkey

- Nose are broad and fleshy, widely separated with nostrils.
- Teeth are similar to human in number and structure, but they have extra premolar teeth.
- Tail is prehensile.
- Live on highest branches of trees.
- They never come on ground, even for drinking water.
- They have leaping locomotion.
- They have big mandible and hypo laryngeal, which provides them fearful and aggressive appearances.

Squirrel Monkey

- Smaller in size
- Live on higher branches of trees.
- Show quadrupedal locomotion.
- Tail is not prehensile.

Cercopithecoidea

- Infraorder - Catarrhine
- Eg. Baboons and Macaques.
- Macaques are distributed in Japan, China, India, Southeast Asia
- Baboons are found in Africa, south of Sahara and Arabian Peninsula.
- They are arboreal and terrestrial.
- During day, they behave as terrestrial animal, and at night as arboreal.
- Males are much bigger in size as compared to females.
- They have cheek pouches.
- They have ischial callosities.
- They have completely opposable thumb and big toe.

Apes

- Infraorder - Catarrhine
- Superfamily - Hominoidea.
 - Family
 - Hylobatidae
 - Pongidae
 - Hominidae.

Hylobatidae -Gibbons

- Arboreal creatures, showing brachiation locomotion.
- They are found in forests of southeast asia e.g. Java Sumatra, Philippines.
- They are smaller in size and twelve in varieties.
- Height does not exceed 3 ft.
- Body weight varies from 25 to 45 Kgs.
- No difference in sizes of male and female bodies.
- Bodies are covered with woolly hairs.
- Their forelimbs are long and touch ground.
- Have powerful hands, provided with long fingers and sort thumbs.
- Their head is large elongated and narrow, It is larger in comparison to face.
- They are pleasant and gentle.
- Both sexes are jealous to each other and maintain a safe distance.

Hylobatidae - Gibbons

- Another group of gibbons are siamang or symphalangus.
- Live in Sumatra, larger in size from common gibbons.
- Posses laryngeal air sacs.
- Siamang represents intermediate form between gibbons and giant apes.