

PRIMATE DIVERSITY & ADAPTATION

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this assignment is to familiarize you with the life-ways of several species of Prosimians, Old World monkeys (Catarrhines), New World monkeys (Platyrrhines), and the apes. This will help to give you a more in depth look at how the unique anatomical features that set primates apart from other mammals are reflective of the diverse physical and social adaptations these species have evolved to survive successfully in their particular environments. **NOTE: Please make sure you answer the questions at the end of the tables.**

1. Read the *Primate Profiles* information and then complete the table below for the following species of **Prosimians**.

Species (common name):	Lemurs	Tarsier
Geographic Distribution		
Habitat		
Locomotion		
Diet		
Social organization		
Distinctive physical features		

How are tarsiers like other prosimians?

How are tarsiers like monkeys? (That is, what characteristics do they share with monkeys?)

2. Read the information about *New World Monkeys* and complete the table.

Species (common name):	Howler Monkeys	Black Spider Monkeys
Geographic Distribution		
Habitat		
Locomotion		
Diet		
Social Organization		
Distinctive physical features		

3. After completing the above, read the information related to the following species of *Old World Monkeys* and complete the table.

Species (common name):	Baboons	Langur Monkeys
Geographic Distribution		
Habitat		
Locomotion		
Diet		
Social Organization		
Distinctive physical features		

Describe the main physical features that distinguish New World Monkeys and Old World Monkeys.

4. Read the information for the following species of *Apes* and complete the table.

Species (common name):	Gibbon	Orangutan
Geographic Distribution		
Habitat		
Locomotion		
Diet		
Social Organization		
Distinctive physical features		

Describe the physical differences between apes and monkeys.

How are the gibbons different from the species of Great Apes (Orangs, Gorillas, Chimps)?

What PHYSICAL characteristics distinguish the Orangutan from the other Great Apes?

What SOCIAL characteristics distinguish the Orangutan from the other Great Apes?

What does Orang-utan mean in Malay?

What are the major threats to present day Orangutan populations?

5. Read the information on **Chimpanzees** and **Bonobos** and complete the table. (NOTE: These are different species, but they are both chimpanzees).

Species (common name):	Chimpanzee <i>Pan troglodytes</i>	Bonobo <i>Pan paniscus</i>
Geographic Distribution		
Habitat		
Locomotion		
Diet		
Social Organization		
Distinctive behavioral features (including tool use)		