

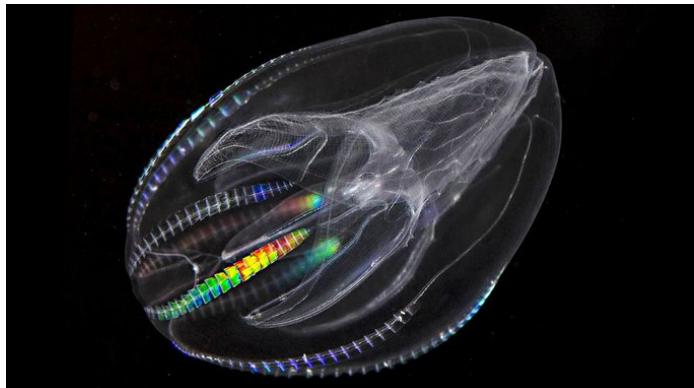


Parasociality
@parasociality

A hierarchy of alienness: Pictures of animals from least to most related to you.



Least-related animal: Sponges.
You and sponges are both
animals. That's basically all
you've got in common.



You and comb jellies are both
eumetazoans: "later animals").



You and jellyfish are both
planulozoans: animals with
serotonin, a chemical that
carries messages between
nerve cells in the brain.



You and xenacoelomorphs are both bilaterians: animals with bilateral symmetry as an embryo.



You and mollusks are both nephrozoans: animals with specialized excretory organs, like kidneys.



You and starfish are both deuterostomes: "second mouth," animals characterized by their anus forming before their mouth during embryonic development.

Kinda weird to think you're more closely related to a starfish than an octopus or a butterfly, isn't it?



You and lancelets are both chordates: animals having a notochord at some stage of their development.



You and sea squirts are both olfactores: "smellers."

Again, isn't it weird that you're more related to THIS than to any animal shown above?



You and hagfish are both vertebrates.



You and sharks are both gnathostomes: jawed animals.



You and the bony fishes (i.e., most fishes) are both euteleostomes: bony vertebrates.



You and coelacanths are both sarcopterygians: "fleshy fins," the things that would become your limbs.



You and lungfish are both rhipidistians: "small bellows." In other words, you both have lungs.



You and amphibians are both tetrapods: "four foot."



You and reptiles and birds are all amniotes: animals whose embryos are suspended in fluid-filled sacs.

Note: I've chosen to represent this group with a snake, but note that all amniotes including snakes are still tetrapods (four-foots).



You and the platypus are both mammals: animals whose mothers feed their young milk.



You and opossums are both therians ("wild beasts"): mammals that give birth to live young without a shelled egg.



You and armadillos are both eutherians ("true beasts"): placental mammals, where the fetus is carried in the uterus of its mother to a relatively late stage of development.



You and rhinoceroses are both boreoeutherians ("true beasts of the north"): mammals where the males have scrotums.



You and rabbits are both euarchontoglires, which hilariously translates to: "True rulers and dormice."

This superorder includes both glires ("dormice," rabbits and rodents) and euarchons ("true rulers," the somewhat arrogant name for the group that includes humans).



You and treeshrews are both members of grandorder Euarchonta: "true rulers."



You and colugos are both primatomorpha: "shaped like the noble ones."



You and lemurs are both primates: the "noble ones," the "excellent" or "highest" animals.

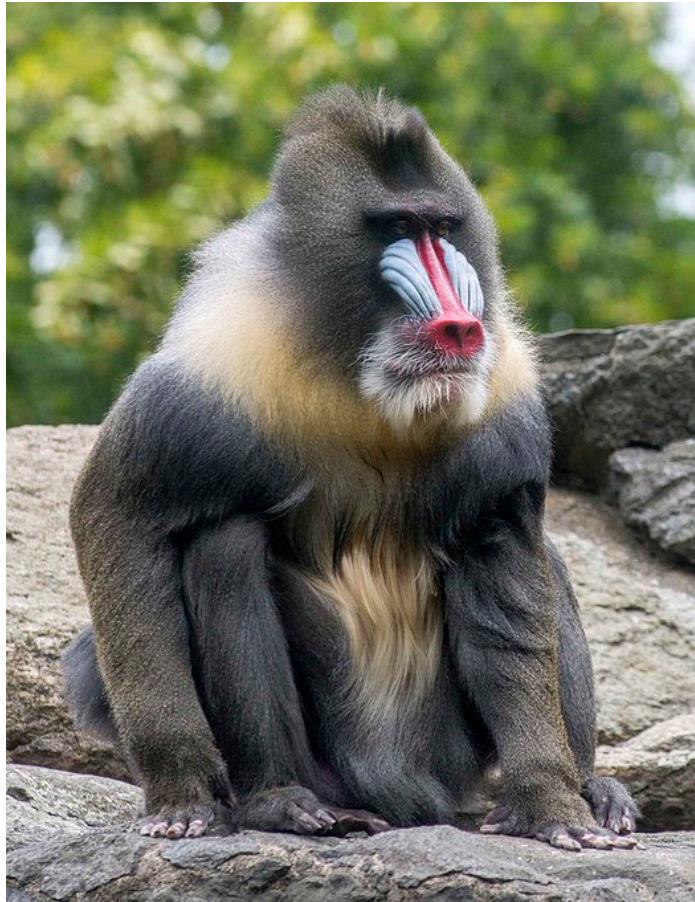
Primates are distinguished by large brains, good eyes with color vision, a shoulder girdle allowing a large degree of movement in the shoulder joint, and dextrous hands.



You and tarsiers are both haplorhines: "simple-nosed" primates.



You and New World monkeys (like spider monkeys) are both simians: "snub-nosed," the apelike animals



You and mandrills are both catarrhines ("flat nose"): Old World monkeys.

Catarrhines lack prehensile tails, have flat fingernails and toenails, a tubular ectotympanic (ear bone), and eight premolars.



You and gibbons are both apes: "Hominoidea," "resembling man."



You and orangutans are both hominids: "Manlike," great apes.



You and gorillas, like the late great Harambe, are both African hominids.



You and chimpanzees are both members of the tribe Hominini: "the tribe of man."

But chimpanzees and bonobos are both part of the genus *Pan* (named for the Greek god of nature and wilderness), while humans are part of the genus *Homo* ("man"). They are our closest living relatives.