Nathan Brooks

A27

All primates have a similar hand layout, all have four fingers with three phalanges and one thumb with two phalanges. The thumb varies from species to species, but they all have two phalanges and one metacarpal. Humans have the longest thumb in relation to the rest of the hand.

The length of the human thumb allows for a precision grip. A precision grip is, for example, holding a pen. This allows humans to manipulate much smaller objects with a much higher precision than other primates.

There are four different hypothesis that attempt to explain why there are platyrrhines in South America. Each one explains a migration pattern. There is evidence supporting the idea that they migrated across the Atlantic Ocean somehow. There is also evidence supporting the idea that they crossed over Antarctica. The strong similarities between the higher primates of Africa and South America, there is nearly no question that these primates evolved from a single ancestor.