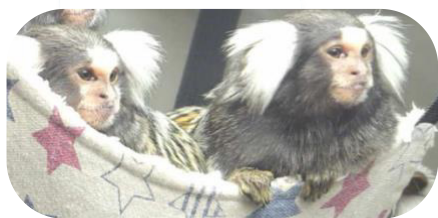


WHAT IS A PRIMATE?

Primates belong to the animal kingdom in the **class** of mammals and the **order** of primates. They are grouped by **genus** and **species**.



Common marmosets

genus: Callithrix **species:** jacchus

Grouping and naming animals based on common biology and traits is called **taxonomy**.

Primates
human
monkey
ape
lemur
loris
tarsier

Primate Traits

Primates traits:

- larger, more complex brains than most mammals
- good eyesight
- grasping hands
- grow slower and live longer than other animals

Primates are social. They may:

- form 2 parent families like humans and marmosets.
- have 1 male living with many females.
- organize by rank, with a high rank male getting more chances to mate.



Gorilla photo: Bryan Lenz

Primate Hands

Primate hands have:

- long fingers to curl around objects.
- flat nails instead of claws.
- opposable thumbs or big toes able to touch other digits on the same hand or foot.

Humans have longest thumb!



Tarsier photo: Stefan Merker

Learn about primates and watch monkeys on the Callicam at [Primate Infonet](https://www.primateinfonet.org/)



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