

PRIMATE PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

Share: Anatomical characteristics

Evolutionary trends

1. generalized limb structure
the most primitive mammals
2. digits – mobile – grasping – (prehensile)
at end of appendages
opposable thumbs and big toes
3. nails and sensitive pads
4. sharp vision/color vision
depth perception
binocular vision/stereoscopic
brow ridges protect the eyes
(supraorbital ridges)
5. decrease in smell and nose structures
6. fewer teeth than ancestral mammal
generalized teeth ripping/shredding incisors, grinding molars
7. brain – big and convoluted
cranial capacity especially cerebral cortex – how big
bipedal (can tell from foramen magnum)
8. increased duration of all phases of life cycle
gestation, childhood – learn so much
live past reproductive age – contribute
9. small number of offspring – most survive
10. learned behavior – flexible behavior
adaptable, parental investment
11. adult males associate with group permanently
Response to arboreal way of life