

PRIMATE EVOLUTION

Early Primates Were Tiny Tree Dwellers

The earliest primate was probably a small, shrew-like animal that ran along tree branches in tropical forests. This was about 55 million years ago, after dinosaurs ruled the Earth. Over millions of years, primates developed in different directions. Today, we have two main groups—the prosimians (lemurs and lorises) and the anthropoids (monkeys, apes and humans).



Verreaux's sifaka

orangutan



People didn't evolve from the primates you see here at the zoo. Today's primates (including humans) share a common ancestor that lived millions of years ago.

