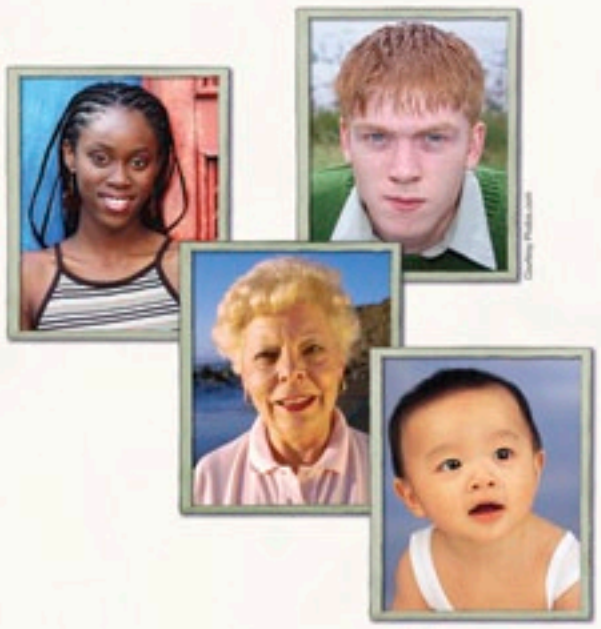
The Genealogy of a Killer

HIV causes AIDS, one of the greatest threats to public health worldwide today. The disease evolved from viruses that infect African primates.

Chimpanzee
Pan troglodytes

African green monkey
Cercopithecus aethiops

Sooty mangabey
Cercocebus torquatus atys



Human
Homo sapiens

Human
Homo sapiens

Mandrill
Papio sphinx

Early primate

AIDS: **A**cquired **I**mmuno**D**eficiency **S**yndrome. AIDS is the fatal disease caused by HIV.

HIV: **H**uman **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus; infects humans.

SIV: **S**imian **I**mmunodeficiency **V**irus; infects monkeys or apes.