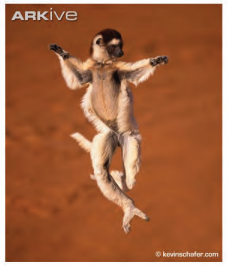
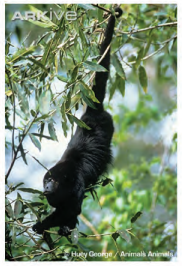
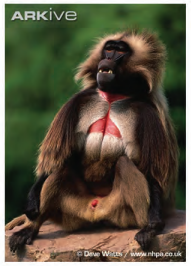
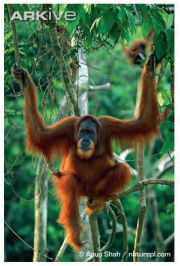
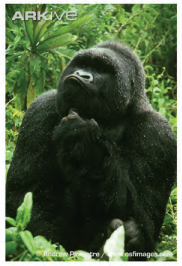
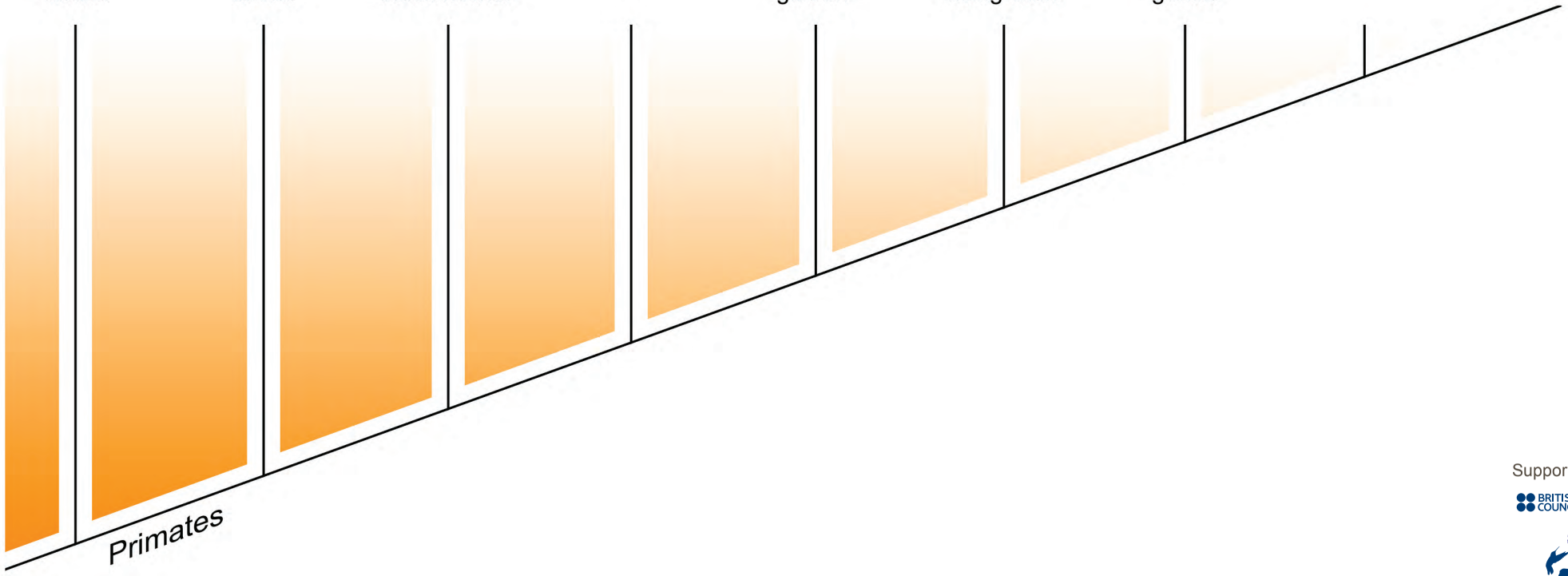
ARKive
IMAGES OF LIFE ON EARTH

Activity – Family ties

Lemurs and lorises	Tarsiers	New World monkeys	Old World monkeys	Gibbons and siamang	Great Apes			
								
Verreaux's sifaka	Philippine tarsier	Guatemalan black howler	Gelada	White-handed gibbon	Sumatran orang-utan	Eastern gorilla	Chimpanzee	Human



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Darwin NOW

Darwin began to draw tree-like patterns in his notebooks. These diagrams were to represent his ideas of how groups of animals might have evolved from a common ancestor.

Darwin's ideas were misunderstood as many people at the time thought that Darwin was proposing that humans had descended from modern apes.

Humans are primates and our closest living relatives are the other great apes. Look at the diagram above, present-day primates have evolved along different branches of this tree, and in this respect the different groups of primates are more like distant cousins rather than ancestors of each other.

Take a look at the ARKive primate scrapbook (**www.arkive.org/family-ties**) which contains the primates in the evolutionary tree diagram. Watch the videos and answer the questions below:

1. How do Old World monkeys differ from New World monkeys? List the features that are different.

2. Gibbons and orang-utans spend most of their lives in the forest canopy. Explain how they are adapted to this way of life.

3. Gorillas and chimpanzees spend time on the ground and in the trees. How does their method of movement differ from gibbons and orang-utans?

4. Chimpanzees are our closest primate 'cousins', they live in social groups and have complex social behaviours. Watch the videos and read the information on ARKive to find out more and then list some of the similarities between chimpanzees and humans.

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