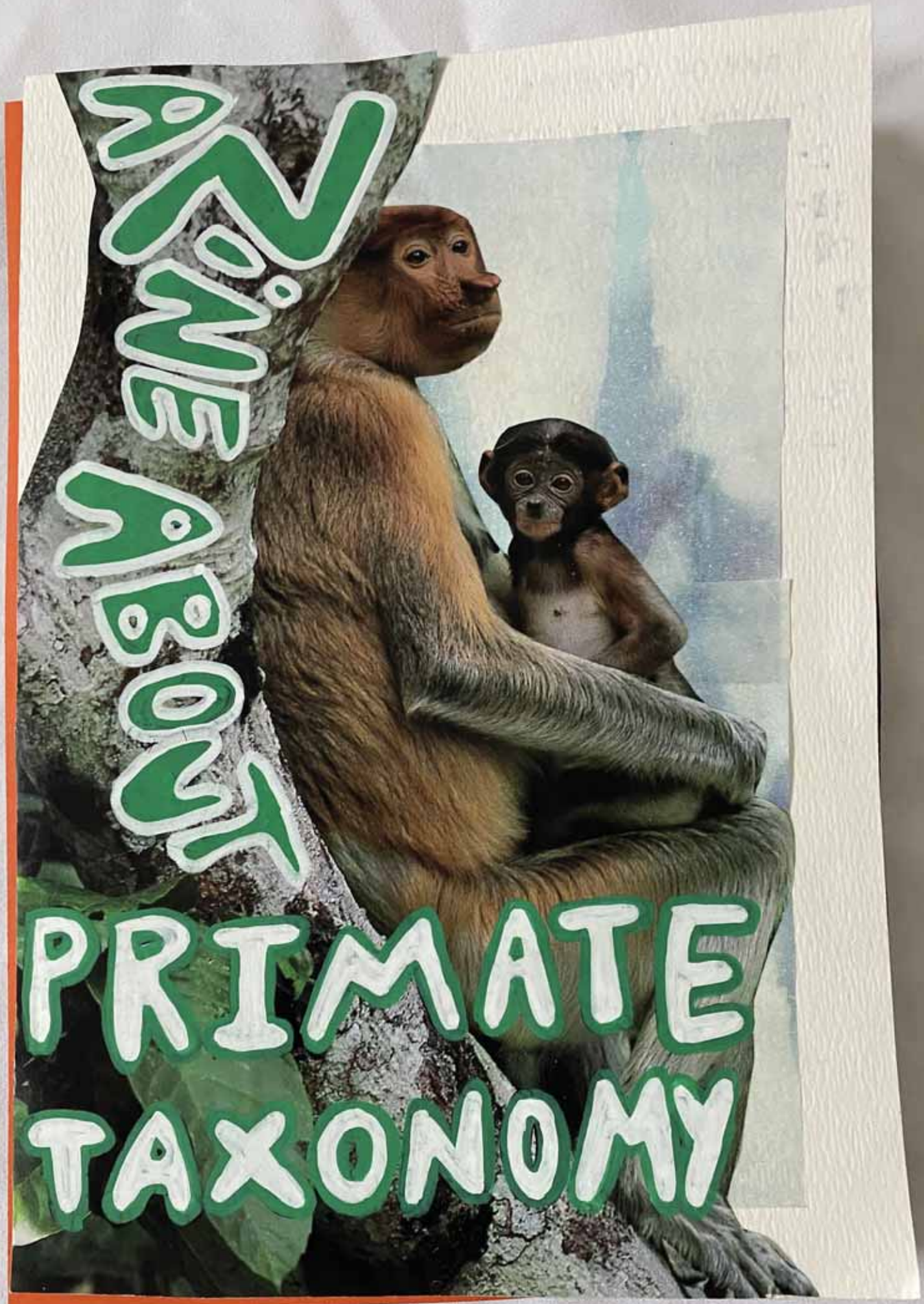
ANONE ABOUT
PRIMATE
TAXONOMY

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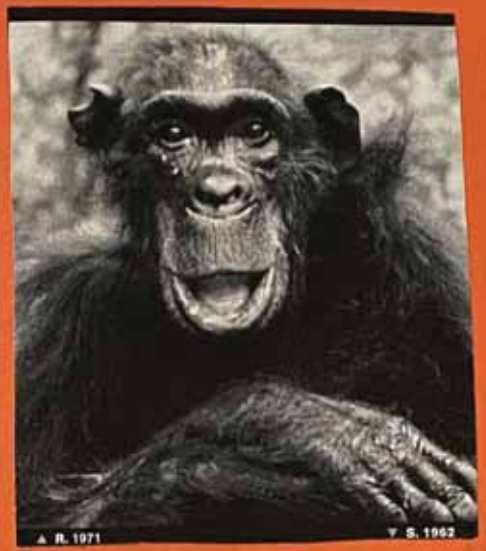


So what is a primate ???

A primate is any mammal that includes lemurs, lorises, tarsiers, monkeys, apes and humans. There are several characteristics unique to primates, though some are found in other organisms. The following are traits commonly found in primates:

- Large brains, relative to body size, that also include the Calcarine Sulcus which functions to divide the first and second visual areas on either side of the brain. (unique to primates)
- significant range in body size
- increase reliance on visual sense compared to other organisms
- Tails, opposable thumbs + grasping feet, though not exclusive to or found in all primates.
- Meissner's corpuscles, specialized nerve endings unique to primates that function to increase tactile sensitivity in hands + feet
- forward facing eyes that allow for overlapping of visual field.
- Molars + premolars are low + rounded

PRIMATES

STREPSIRHINI

HAPLORHINI

LEMURIFORMES

PLATYRHINE

TARSIFORMES

SIMIFORMES

CATARRHINI

STREPSIRHINI!

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- relatively long noses
- Rhinarium (wet nose)
- lip split (like rabbit)
- grooming claw (except aye-ayes)
- nocturnal often
- post-orbital bar (detached ring of bone around eye)

LEMURIFORMES

IDENTIFYING FEATURES:

- DENtal comb
- grooming claw on the second toe
- More laterally placed eyes
- elongated snout
- Moist rhinarium
- large Mobile ears
- no post-orbital plate

HAPLORHINI

Identifying features:

- upper lip not connected to nose/gum
- no rhinarium
- ↑ brain-body mass
- daytime vision, 3D colour vision
- post orbital cup → enclosed eye orbit

HAPLORHINI

can be divided into

SIMIFORMES

and

TARSIFORMES

SIMIFORMES

can further be divided into:

PLATYRHINE

identifying features:

- flat nose
- sideway facing nostrils
- central + south America
- arboreal
- 2:1:3:3 dental formula (2 incisors, 1 canine, 3 premolars, 3 molars)

Identifying features:

- long, sticky, padded fingers to grip trees
- Enormous eyes that can't move in eye sockets, and therefore, their head is able to turn nearly all the way around
- Nocturnal
- Arboreal
- S.E. Asia

TARSIFORMES

and CATARRHINI

identifying features:

- down facing nose
- nostrils close together and facing down/ forwards
- tails
- 2:1:2:3 dental formula (2 incisors, 1 canine, 2 premolars, 3 molars)

Why do we care?

Taxonomy is crucial to understanding the diversity of organisms that exist. There are an unimaginable number of organisms on this planet and through the use of hierarchical classification we are able to categorize organisms to better understand the immense number that exists. Taxonomy allows for easier communication of important biological information and presents biodiversity in an uniform, simpler form that allows for scientists to better understand and encourage conservation. "Taxonomy has a well-defined role, which is much more than simply stamp collecting and pigeon-holing. Species are the units of classification, biogeography and conservation; as such they must be defined as objectively as possible." (Groves, 2004). Taxonomy, specifically of primates, allows for us to begin to understand human evolution and all the intricate details it encompasses.

If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost, too.

- Carl Linnaeus

a primate playlist!

- I'm a believer (the Monkees)
- Banana pancakes (Jack Johnson)
- Do I wanna know? (Arctic Monkeys)
- Gorilla (Bruno Mars)
- Dance Monkey (Tones and I)
- Monkey Tree (Mother Mother)
- Brass Monkey (Beastie boys)
- In the Jungle (rootz underground)

WHAT PRIMATE ARE YOU?

TAKE THIS QUIZ + FIND OUT!

start here:

Rhinarium?

yes

you're an:
Aye-aye!

NO

you're a:
Tarsier!

NO

Can you move your eyes?

YES

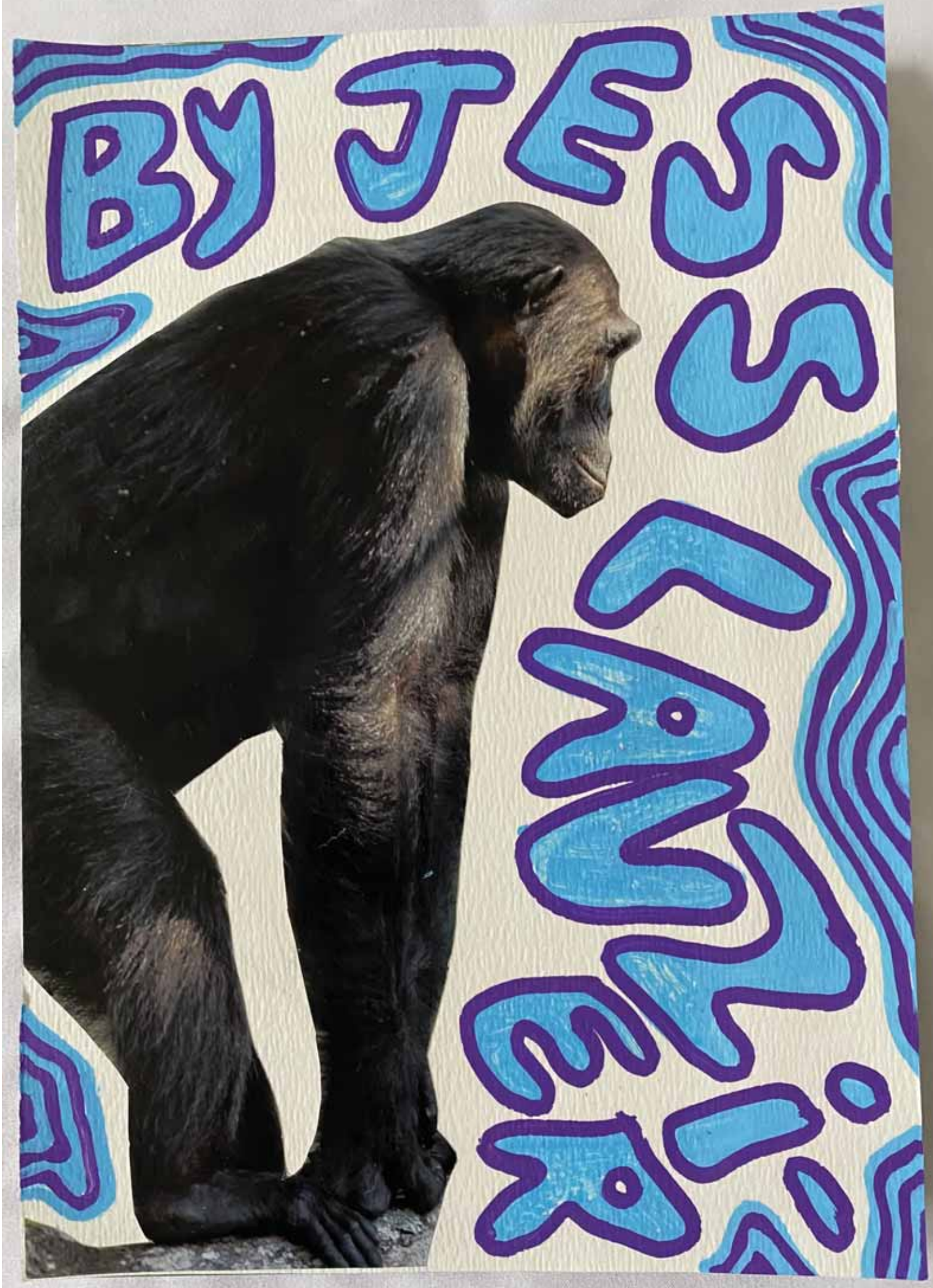
which way do your nostrils face?

sideways

you're an:
Colombian red howler!

down/forewards + close together

you're an:
olive Baboon!


BY JESS