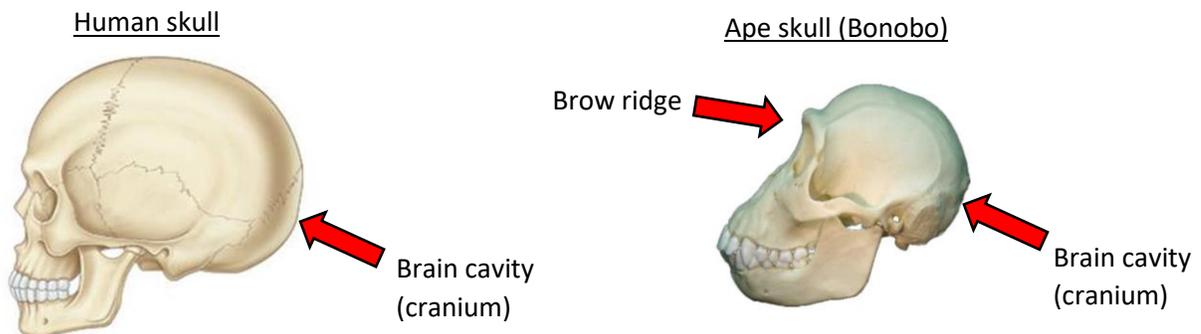


Image of God (Grades K-2)

Some people say that humans are just advanced apes. Is that true? During this lesson we will compare humans and apes and explore what it means to be made in the image of God. Let's get started!

The Bible says that God created everything in just six days and then rested on the seventh day (Exodus 20:11). On Day 6 of Creation week God created the land animals (Genesis 1:24-25) and people (Genesis 1:27). Even though we were created on the same day as the apes, we are very different. Let's start by looking at some physical differences.

The skull shown on the left is a human skull and the one on the right side is an ape skull (a Bonobo). Look closely at these pictures and write down 2-3 differences.



Differences

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Obviously, apes have very different skulls than we do!

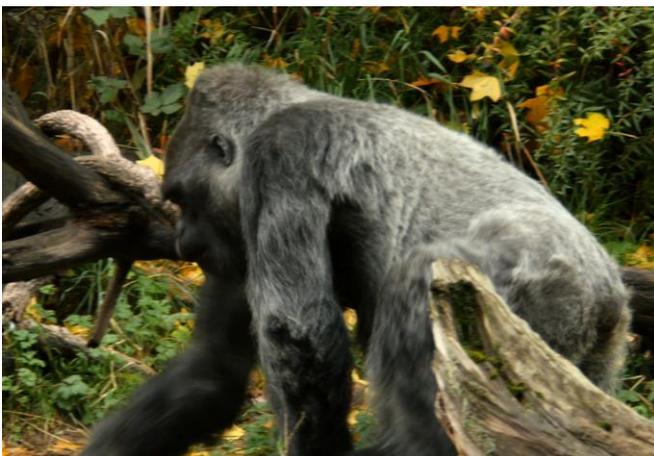
Answers: (1) The face of the ape skull is sloped (2) ape skull has a big brow ridge (3) human skull has a bigger brain

Let's talk about fingers and toes. The pictures below show the hands and feet of both humans and apes. Why do you think apes have such long and curved fingers and toes? Hint: look at the picture. God designed apes with long fingers and special toes because it helps them climb trees.



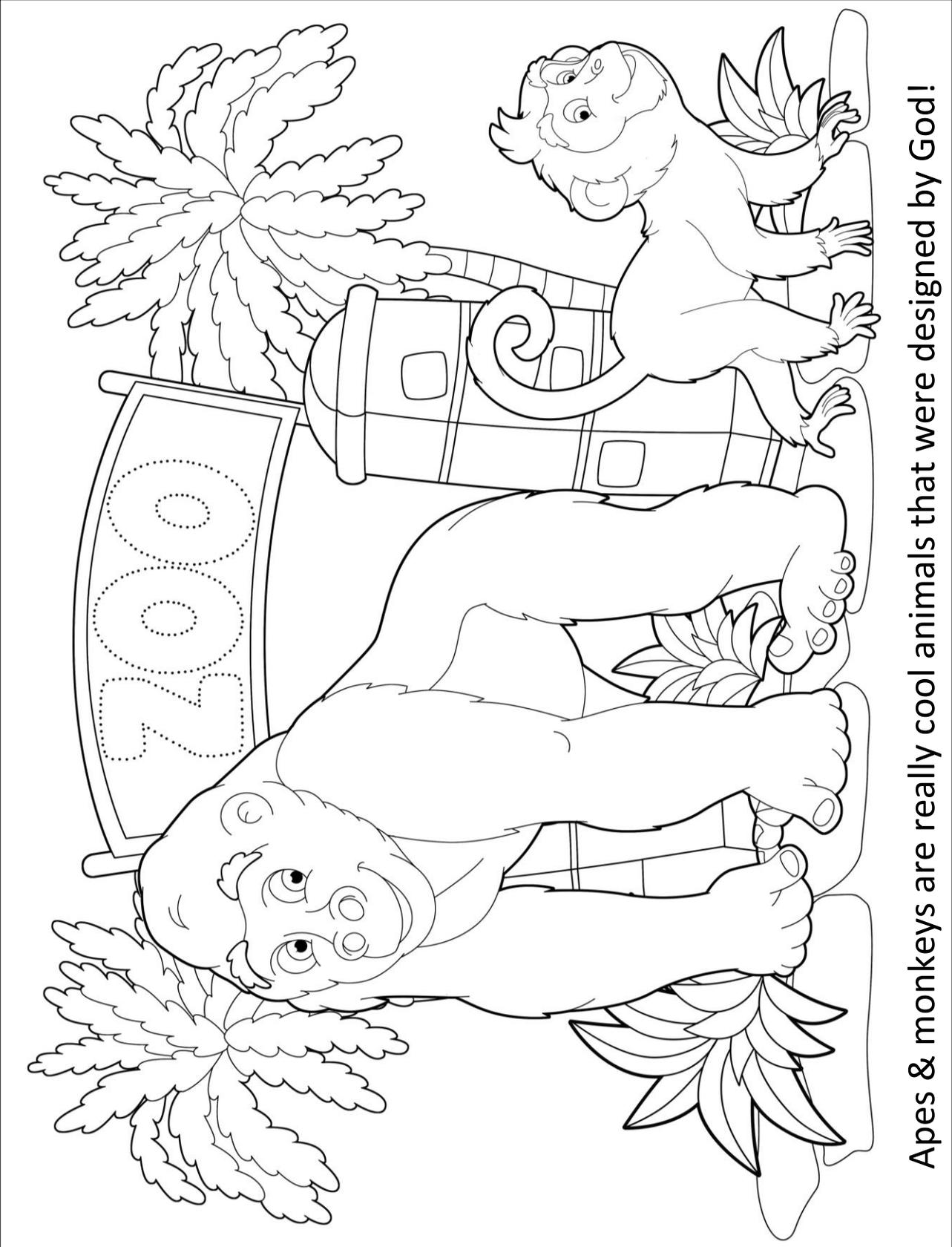
“God designed apes with long fingers and special toes because it helps them climb trees.”

Have you ever seen an ape walk on its knuckles? It is amazing how fast they can go! God designed apes with special wrist bones that lock into place for knuckle-walking. Humans don't have this type of wrist bones because we were designed to walk upright on two legs.



“God designed apes with special wrist bones that lock into place for knuckle-walking.”

Activity: color the picture below



Apes & monkeys are really cool animals that were designed by God!

In Genesis 1:27, the Bible says: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.” What does it mean to be made in the image of God? Three things come to mind:

1. **We are NOT animals! In fact, the Bible says we are in charge of the animals:**
“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” Genesis 1:26.

Since we are in charge of the animals, it is very important that we take care of them and are kind to them. Does that mean we can't eat meat? No, God said it was ok for us to eat meat (Genesis 9:1-3).

2. **We are very creative.** Although apes are really cool animals, they are not human and cannot do many of the things we can do. On the lines below write down five things that people can do that animals cannot. If you need a hint, just look around you :).

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

3. **We were created for close relationships with God and people.** Many people waste a lot of time chasing after material things like money, toys, fancy clothes and video games. Although it is ok to have nice things, the true key to happiness is to have healthy relationships with God and the people around us. Make sure that you spend time with God every day. Tell Him how you feel and ask Him for his direction. Always remember that you are a child of God and He loves you so much!