

Lecture 6: Key Terms, Concepts and questions to ponder

You should become familiar with the following terms and concepts from your readings in Campbell *et al* for this lectures. You should also give some consideration to the problems and issues mooted in the "To Ponder" section.

Vocabulary

continental drift

Laurasia

Gondwanaland

arboreal hypothesis

visual predation hypothesis

Eocene

Adapidae

Omomyidae

Siamopithecus

dental formulas

postorbital bar

prosimians

anthropoids

Oligocene

Fayum Depression

oligopithecines

parapithecids

propliopithecids

Aegyptopithecus

catarrhines

platyrrhines

Miocene

*Proconsul**Oreopithecus**Sivapithecus**Gigantopithecus**Dryopithecus*

"dental apes"

"suspensory apes"

To Ponder

-) What features distinguish prosimians from higher primates?
-) Campbell *et al.* point out that perhaps 2 to 4 % of the 5-7,000 fossil primates species which probably existed in the last 60 millions years are known to us. What factors contribute to the scarcity and incompleteness of the primate fossil record?