

**My name is**



*this is my Nature Journal*

**Part 2:**

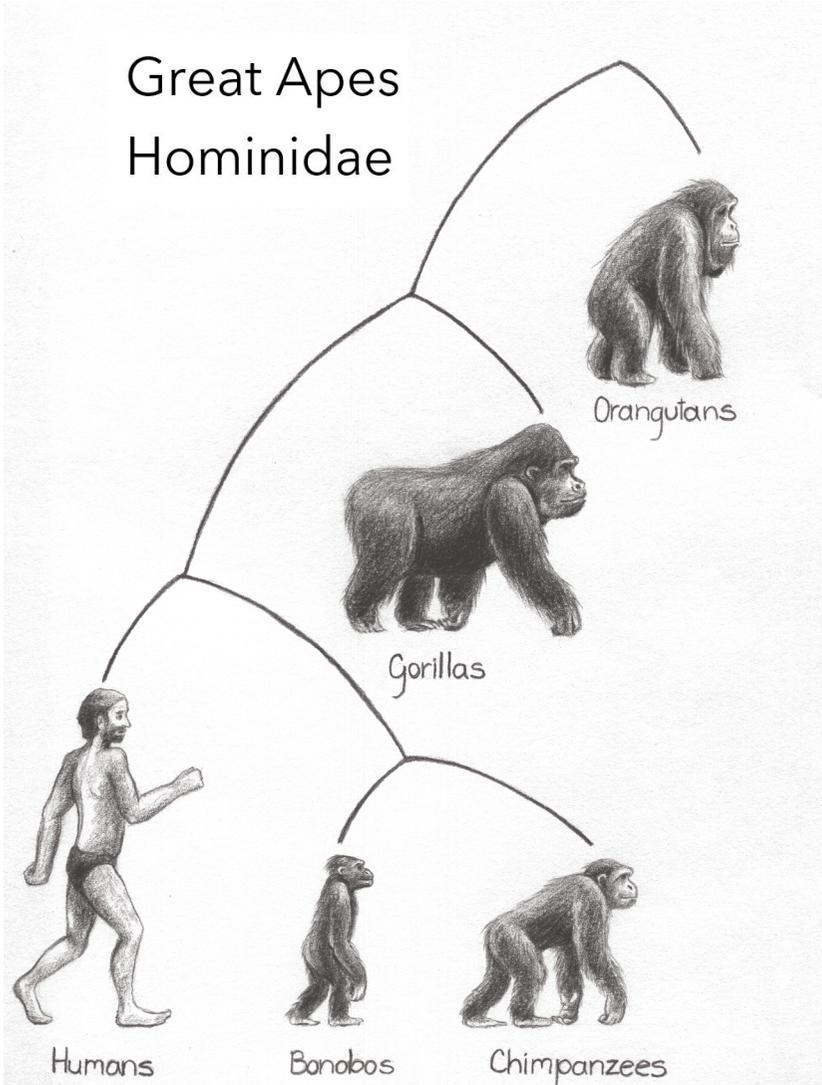
**Orangutans and nests!**

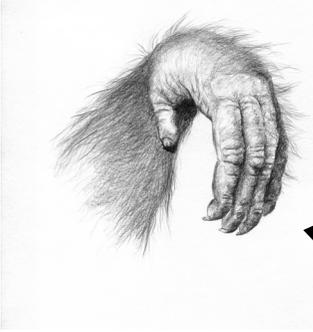


Hi, I am Wildlife Wong.  
What makes you similar to  
orangutans? And what makes  
you different? Lets find out...



# All apes have opposable thumbs.





This is an orangutan's  
hand with an  
opposable thumb

**And here's a drawing of my  
thumb.**

# Why is my thumb important?

I can swing like an orangutan from the monkey bars. I can only do that because I can grip with my thumb. Here's a list of other things I CAN do because I have thumbs:

# How long can I last without thumbs?

I am going to ask an adult to tape my thumb and forefinger together on both my hands so my thumb can't move. Then I am going to time how long I can last without my thumbs.

I lasted ..... minutes.



# What CAN'T I do without thumbs?

Here's a list, or a drawing, of the things I found I can't do, when my thumbs are taped...

# Apart from thumbs, how else am I similar to an orangutan?

I am going to fill in the chart on page 9 and compare myself to a female orangutan aged 11.

I need:

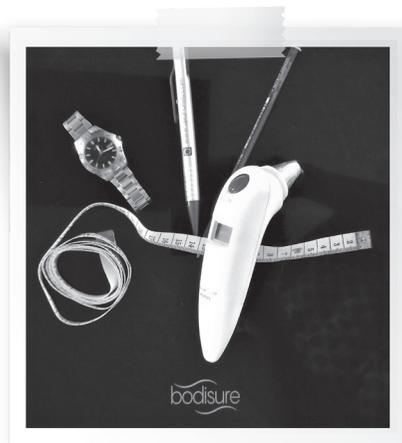
A measuring tape (a cloth tape is better)

A weighing scale

A thermometer

A watch or stopwatch

A pen or pencil



## **Here are some tips which might help...**

- ✓ The best way to measure height is against a wall. Have someone help make a mark on the wall at the top of your head with a pencil, then measure the wall.
- ✓ Ask your friend to help measure your forearm, upper arm and leg length. It is easiest to use a cloth measuring tape.
- ✓ It's best to ask an adult to help record your temperature.
- ✓ To measure your pulse, put two fingers against the vein in your neck until you can feel your heartbeat. Count the number of beats while someone else counts 60 seconds.

**Thank you to Dr Felicity Oram for sharing  
orangutan measurements!**

## **Guess what?**

Orangutans are not quite as clever with their hands as people but they use their lips as an extra hand much better than people can!

Can I pick up a pencil with my mouth and write my name here?



<b>Name</b>	Orangutan	Me
<b>Age</b>	11 years old	
<b>Gender (male or female)</b>	female	
<b>Date</b>	13 July 2021	
<b>Height when standing</b>	86cm	
<b>Forearm length (elbow to wrist)</b>	33.2cm	
<b>Upper arm length (elbow to shoulder)</b>	26.6cm	
<b>Leg length (hip to ankle)</b>	29cm	
<b>Weight</b>	28kg	
<b>Temperature</b>	37 degrees centigrade	
<b>Pulse</b>	115 beats per minute	

## One more measurement...

Scientists use something called an **opposability index**. To find my opposability index, I measure my thumb, and then my index finger from the place where they join. I multiply my thumb length by 100, then divide the answer by my index finger length. An orangutan's opposability index is usually around 40. Mine is...



Orangutans sleep in nests. They build a new nest every day. Here's a photo or drawing of me following the experiment in **Wildlife wong and the Orangutan**, and trying to build an orangutan nest.

*(Watch the video in the Wildlife Wong Kids' Club at [www.sarahrpye.com](http://www.sarahrpye.com)).*

Can I find other animal nests near my house?

*IMPORTANT: Don't disturb other animals, just look. This is called OBSERVATION and it is a very important scientific skill.*

# I SPY an animal nest...

Type of animal	Date I saw it	Where I saw it
ant		
Termite		
Turtle		
Mouse		
Spider		
Duck		
Chicken		
Goose		
Swan		
Bird of prey		
Other bird:		
Other animal:		

**Here's a drawing of a nest I found...**

## **Here are some of the materials I think the animal used...**

I have glued, taped or squashed some of the nest building materials I found near the nest and labelled them.

**Here's a drawing of ANOTHER nest I found...**

*(Maybe this drawing has the animal in the nest?)*

## **And here are some of the materials THAT animal used...**

I have glued, taped or squashed some of the nest building materials I found near the nest and labelled them.

# This is what I found out about orangutans and other nest- building animals...

*Ideas: How am I similar or different to an orangutan?*

*How do I feel about that?*

*Do I think it would be easier for orangutans to build  
nests than other animals?*

*Why?*

*Where do animals find nest materials?*