

What they look like:

Orangutans display as much variety in their appearance as people do.

- The color and length of each one's hair is different.
- The shapes of their faces are different.
- And they have many different personalities.

There is no doubt about it -
Every orangutan is unique!



Like humans, orangutans can be identified by their fingerprints but their prints cannot be mistaken for a person's. Orangutan fingerprints are more pointed.



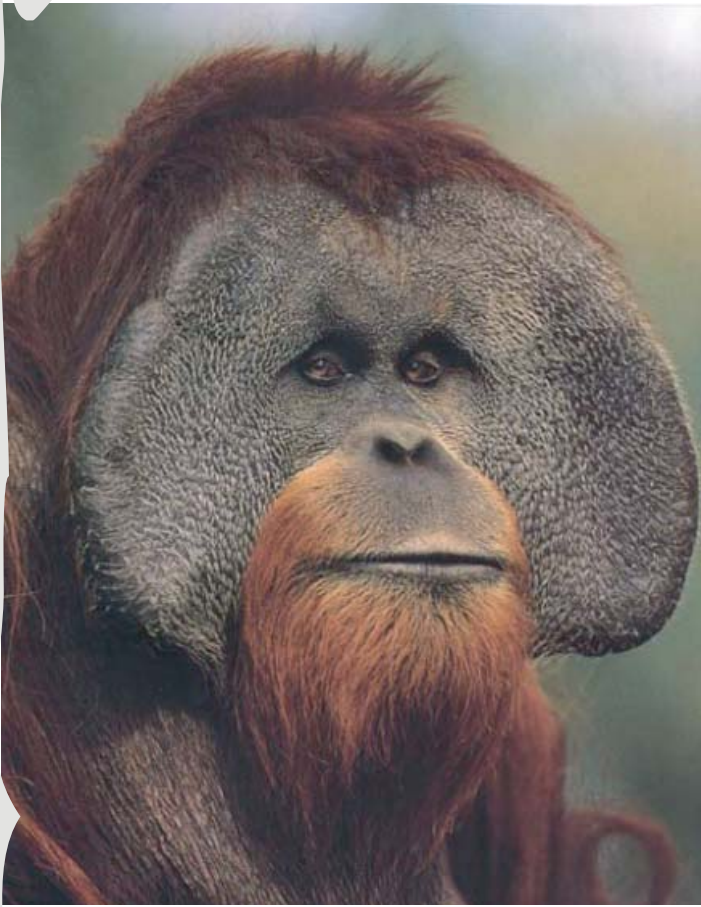
Male

Female

Male orangutans are about twice the size of females, weighing up to 200 pounds and reaching a height of about 5 feet.

CHEEK POUCHES

When males are about 15 yrs old, they begin to develop large cheek pads which female orangutans apparently find very attractive.



Cheek pads are made of fatty tissue and make the males look larger and therefore more powerful.

They may also help to project their "long call" through the forest - much like when a person cups his hands around his mouth when he yells something.



Humans and orangutans are both omnivores (eat both plants and animals) but orangutans are **mostly herbivorous** (plants comprise most of their diet).

With strong jaws and heavy back teeth, orangutans can crush tough foliage and can crack even the hardest nuts.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Like humans, orangutans have 32 teeth.

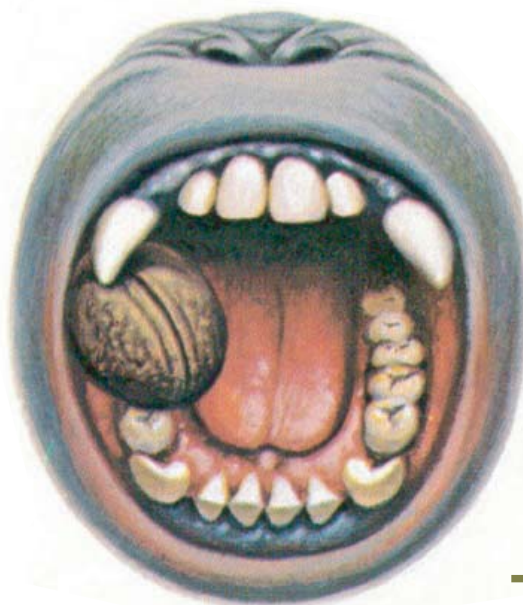


Illustration by Zoobooks-Orangutans



TRUE: And they even get cavities!

Up to ten times stronger than a man,
Orangutans have tremendous strength,
which enables them to swing from branch
to branch (called brachiation).

They almost seem to have four hands
instead of two hands and two feet.

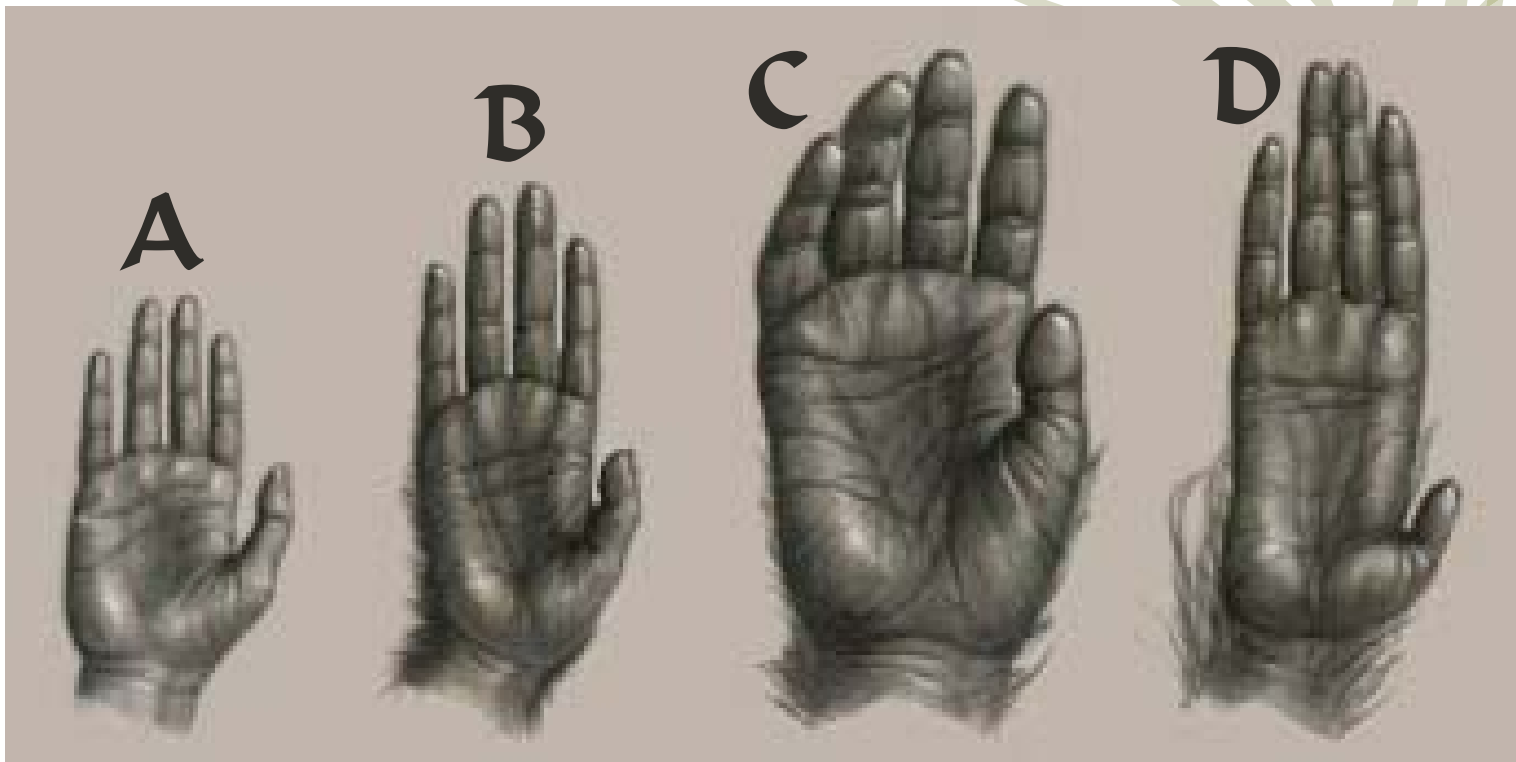


Photo by Zoobooks-Orangutans

Can you guess which one is the orangutan's hand? The others belong to a human, chimpanzee, and gorilla.

Hint: You will probably notice that the orangutan's hand has very long fingers and short thumbs. The orangutan's long fingers are better able to hook over branches and vines. The short thumbs stay out of the way and don't get caught in the branches as the orangutan swings among the trees and vines.

A. Human B. Chimpanzee C. Gorilla D. Orangutan