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| Characteristics | Specifics | Trend |
| **Digits** | Mobility | Increase mobility and ability to move digits independently to one another |
|  | Opposability | First digit opposable and increasing length results in increased effectiveness of opposability |
|  | Claws/nails | Primitive primates retain claws on some digits; higher primates have nails on all digits |
| **Dentition** |  |  |
| **Smell** |  | Sense of smell reduced with gradual reduction in length of the snout |
| **Vision** | Eyes | Eyes become more forward facing to allow for stereoscopic vision |
|  | Eye socket | Eyes gradually become enclosed in a protective bony socket |
|  | Visual area of brain | Increased portion of cerebrum devoted to vision |
| **Brain** | Size | Increase size of brain relative to size of body |
|  | Convolutions | Gradual increase in the number of folds in the surface of the cerebrum |
|  | Cerebral cortex | Cerebral cortex making up an increasingly large proportion of the brain |
| **Gestation** |  | Increase length of time between fertilisation and birth |
| **Development** | Dependence | Increase length of time that the offspring are dependent on the parents |
|  | Sexual maturity | Increasingly later development fo sexual maturity |