



INSIDE THE MIND OF AN ANIMAL

Rev Chris Worfolk

INTRODUCTION

- ✿ What is it like in the mind of an animal?
- ✿ Is it like 2001 or perhaps like being really drunk?
- ✿ Are they conscious or just acting purely on instinct?



INTRODUCTION

- ✿ Insects are attracted to brightly coloured flowers
- ✿ But take a minute to think about what this actually means



INTRODUCTION

- ✱ But then again, these days we have shit like this



INTRODUCTION

- ✱ The problem with modern art is this...
- ✱ Anyone who likes it isn't actually an art fan at all, they're just pretentious



INTRODUCTION

- ✱ This is the Sistine Chapel painted by Michelangelo
- ✱ It took him 4 years to complete



INTRODUCTION

- ✿ This debate has been raging on for years now
- ✿ So remember these lines...
- ✿ “He completely proved it” ...and...
- ✿ “You just had to be at the talk”



BEFORE WE BEGIN

- ✿ The AHS National Convention took place in Oxford on February 27th
- ✿ The Blackwell in Oxford boasts to being the largest bookshop in the UK



CONSCIOUSNESS

- ✱ Humans are consciousness
- ✱ Humans are animals
- ✱ Are animals consciousness?
- ✱ Well we know at least a subset of animals are



WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- ✱ From an atheist worldview, it should be a scale with other intelligent animals
- ✱ But from a theist worldview we would expect qualities unique to the human race



SO, ANIMALS

- ✿ Obviously some animals are intelligent and conscious
- ✿ Because we're all animals, whether you're a human, a bear, a fish...



SO, ANIMALS

✿ ...or even a hobbit



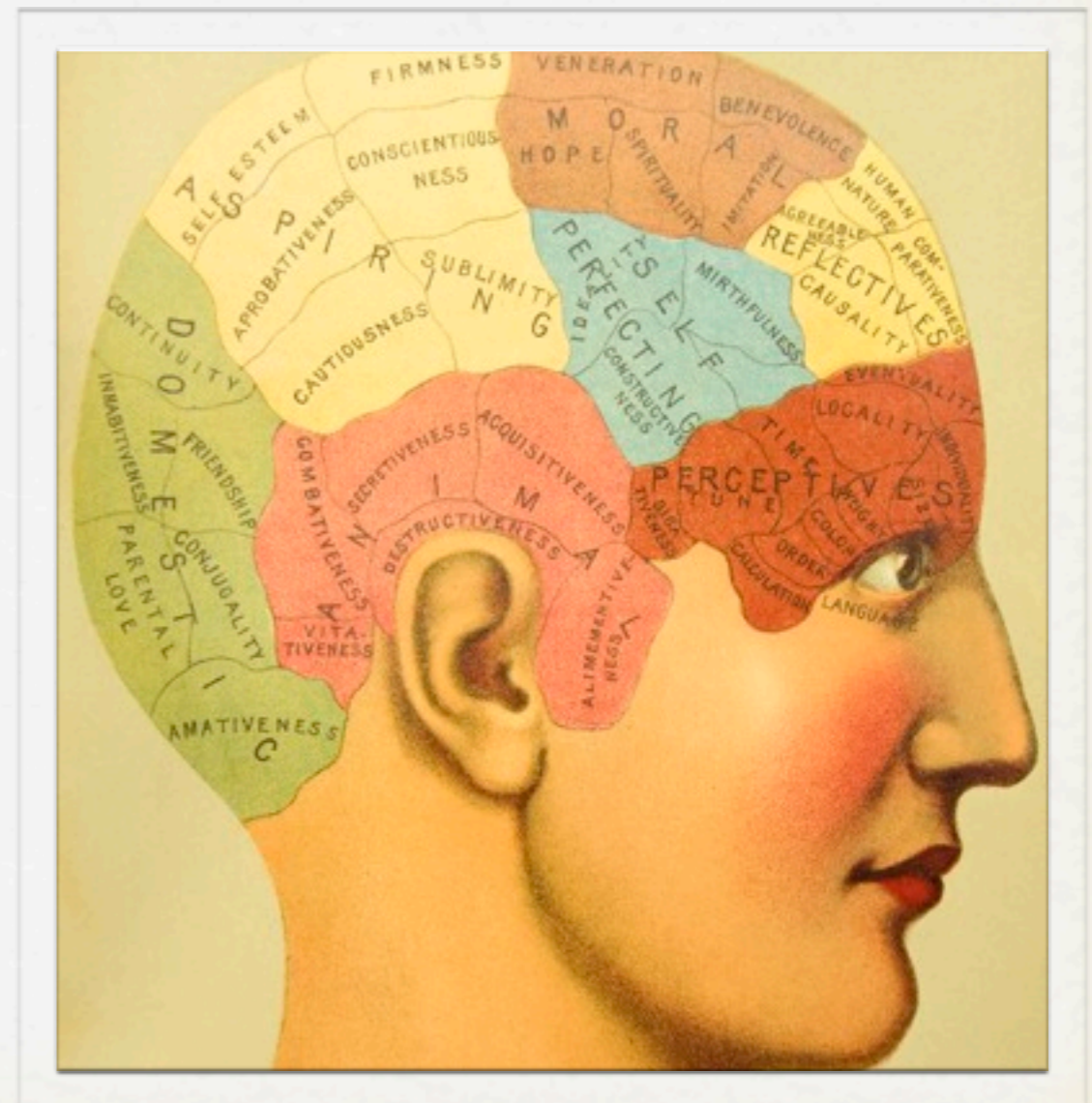
DEFINITIONS

- ✿ Consciousness is “subjective experience or awareness or wakefulness or the executive control system of the mind”
- ✿ Sentience is “the ability to feel or perceive subjectively”



CONSCIOUSNESS

- ✿ What even is this consciousness thing?
- ✿ It's all very confusing
- ✿ Luckily we have come up with a few tests



THE MIRROR TEST

- ✱ The industry standard
- ✱ Show them themselves in the mirror
- ✱ Then stick a spot on their face and show them again
- ✱ Do they spot the spot?



HYPOTHESIS

- ✱ Do they have language and social structure?
- ✱ Can they recognise themselves?
- ✱ Can they conceptualise problems?
- ✱ Do they display emotions, empathy?



DOLPHINS

- ✱ Not an intelligent species
- ✱ They live in pods of up to 12 individuals
- ✱ They care for each other and nurse the ill
- ✱ They even help other species from time to time



DOLPHINS

- ✱ They have rules in their society
- ✱ They have a sophisticated language
- ✱ They even have signature whistles - names



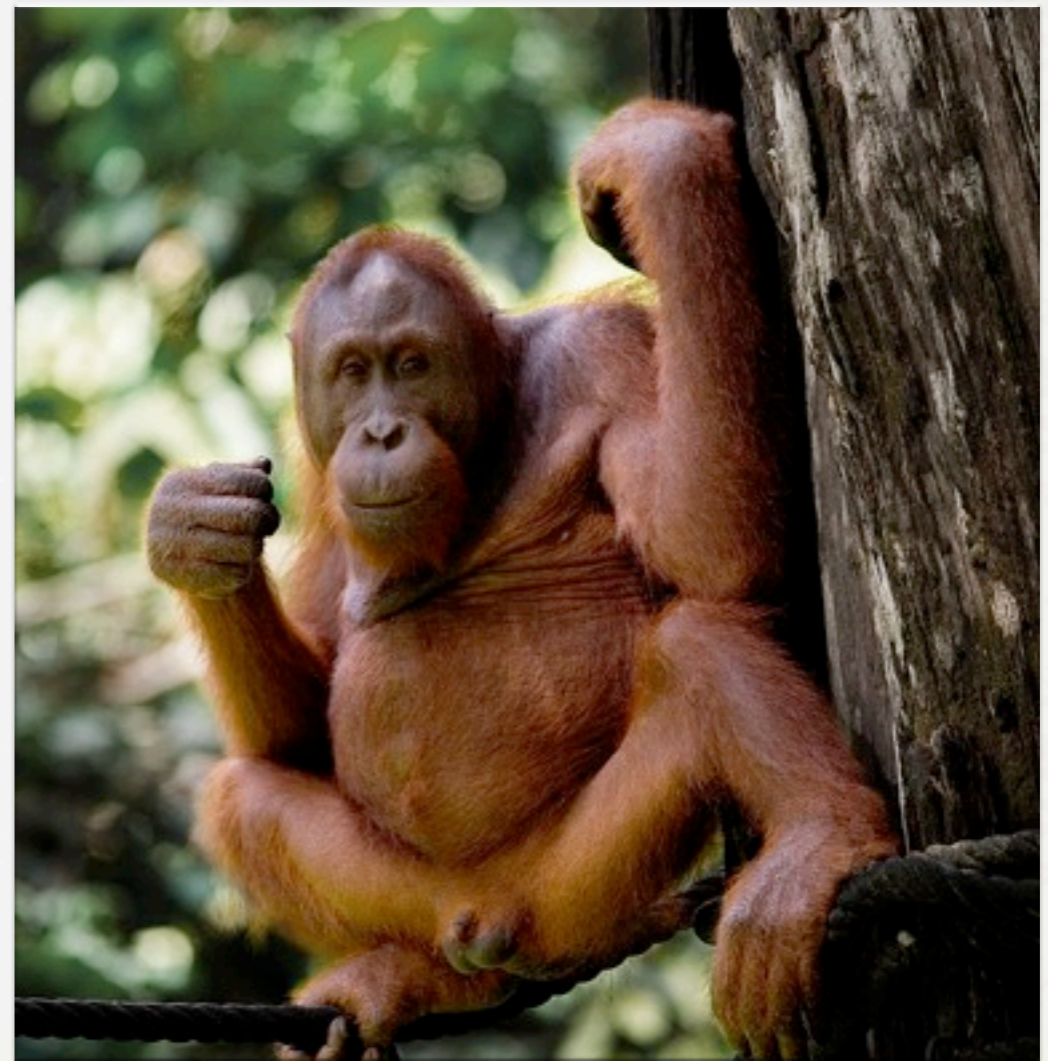
DOLPHINS

- ✿ They use tools for example using sponges to protect their snouts while foraging for food
- ✿ And they even teach these skills to their young



ORANGUTANS

- ✿ One of our closest living relatives
- ✿ You can tell from the similarity to Norm
- ✿ This one here is obviously practicing his martial arts



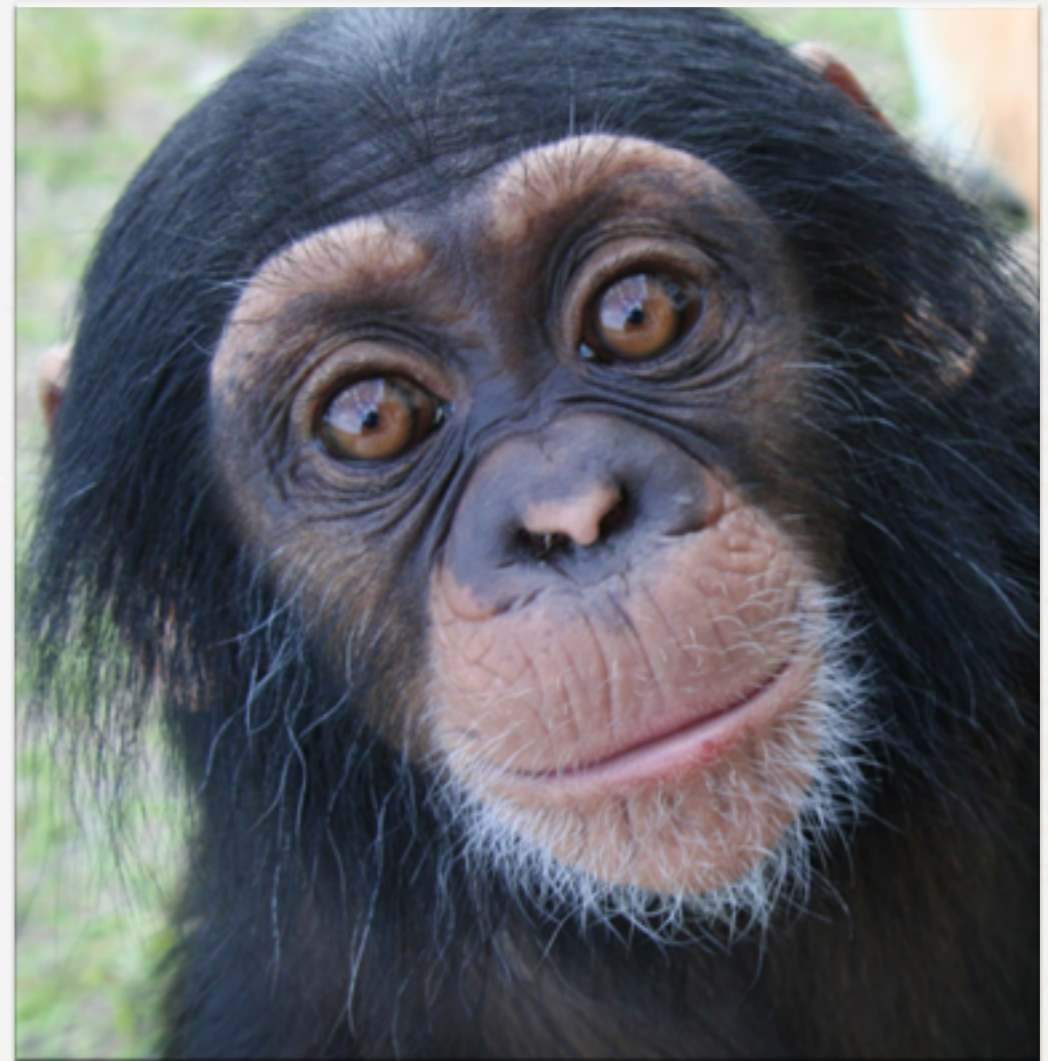
ORANGUTANS

- ✿ Orangutans have a long a well documented history of manufacturing tools
- ✿ There has even been evidence of basic experimentation and refinement



CHIMPS

- ✿ Very social creatures, they spend their time travelling in small groups but sometimes come together with other groups to form a larger group
- ✿ So basically it's like a group joining a raid party



GORILLAS

- ✿ They may look big and scary but they are actually no more frightening than a killer robot or nuclear war
- ✿ Indeed in many ways they are much friendlier than either



BONOBOS

- ✿ Capable of “altruism, compassion, empathy, kindness, patience and sensitivity.”
- ✿ They also have a matriarchal culture
- ✿ And lots and lots of sex



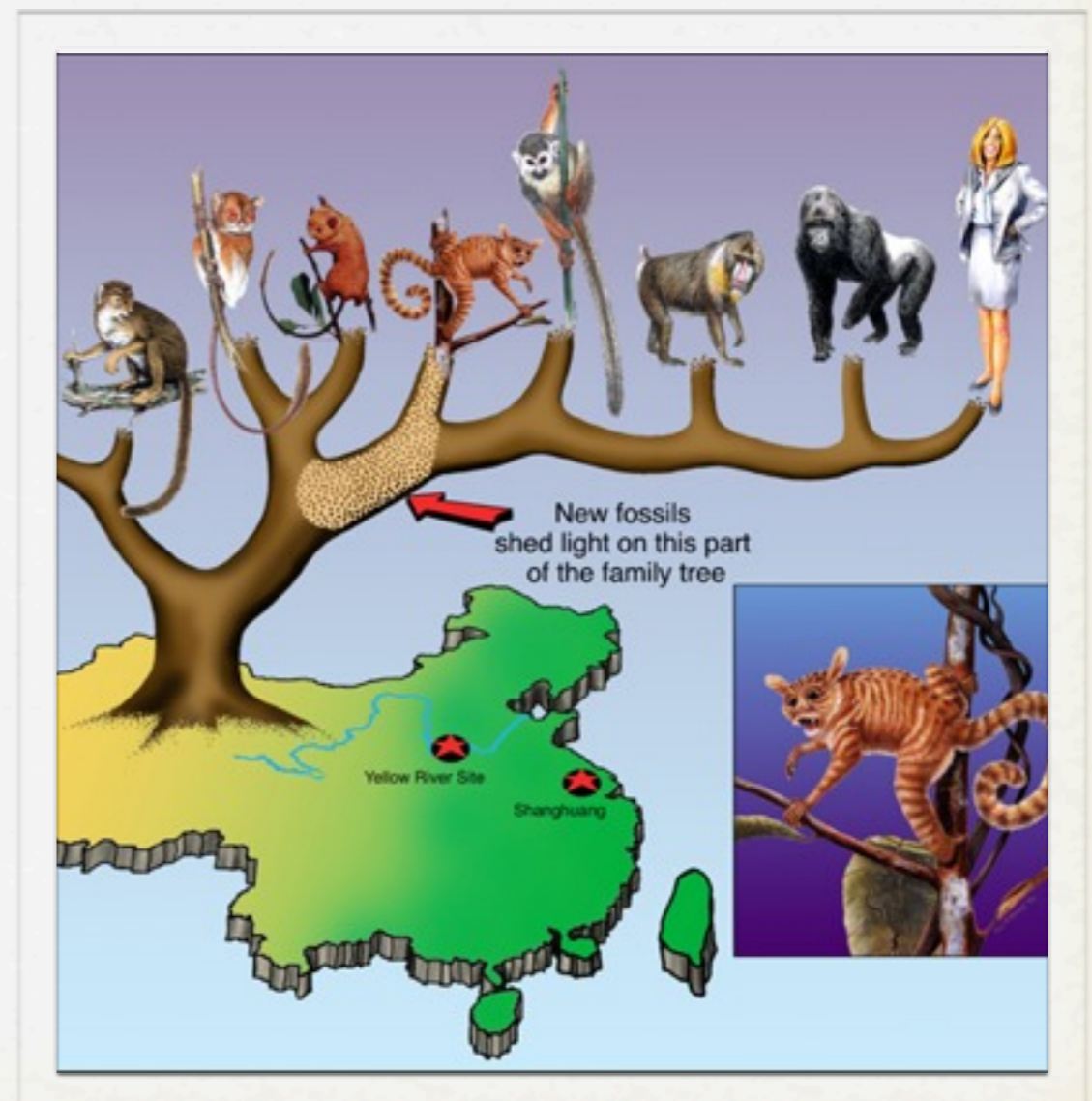
DOES IT LIVE UP?

- ✱ Language?
- ✱ Emotions?
- ✱ Manufacturing?
- ✱ Problem solving?
- ✱ Societies?
- ✱ Education?



CONCLUSIONS

- ✿ The higher mammals have the basics of everything we have in our society
- ✿ Therefore they must have a similar level of consciousness
- ✿ Which is what we would expect from evolution



CONSEQUENCES

- ✱ Make no mistake, when you eat an animal, you are eating a previously conscious animal
- ✱ But then again, it does taste really, really good
- ✱ And of course, we don't actually eat higher apes



CONSEQUENCES

- ✿ Some people say that animals can't have rights as they don't have responsibilities
- ✿ This people are, of course, idiots



gimm

FINAL THOUGHTS

- ✿ Dismissing animals are mindless drones is wholly inaccurate
- ✿ Not only that but it is speciesist
- ✿ And makes no sense what so ever in a humanist worldview

