

Re: The question: the answer: the tree

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"Tom Impelluso" <impellus@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:fkbpag\\$2jop\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:fkbpag$2jop$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

...
I am hoping to find trees of JUST fish, JUST cats, JUST primates...
each showing: 1) a measure of diversity; 2) a suggested origin of
when that particular cat – say, tiger – appeared.
...

I think what you're trying to do is a Good Thing. If more children learn at an early age that the world is complex, but also fascinating and understandable if they apply themselves, we'll have more sophisticated and better educated adults.

I can suggest some search terms to use in Google. Try:

evolutionary tree
evolutionary systematics
cladogram
cladistics

Unfortunately for your purposes, everything I found is made for science students and professionals and often uses Latin names, technical language, and compressed formats that may be hard for a child to follow.

I think your best bet is to go to a public library and see what's available in the children's section. A good local library ought to have a reasonable selection of biology books for children, including some that discuss evolution and show evolutionary trees.

Another possible place to look is the National Center for Science Education (<http://www.ncseweb.org/>). It's an organization affiliated with the National Academy of Sciences created expressly to promote the teaching of evolution in schools. See their links, resources, and book store.

Re: The question: the answer: the tree

I wouldn't focus too heavily on your goal of finding an evolutionary tree for a species. Even if you don't find such a thing, you should be able to find other resources that will be just as instructive in other ways. I'd focus on finding something that is very interesting, very well illustrated, very accurate, and well oriented towards an intelligent child. It may not have just what you were looking for but will still help with your underlying aim.

Good luck.

Alan

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