BBC iWonder

Darwin inspired by great apes at London Zoo

[Clip from BBC FOUR Timeshift]

[Randal Keynes]

It was at London Zoo that Darwin first saw man's closest cousin. She was called Jenny, Jenny the orang. She was a young orang, three or four years old, they thought, and she'd come from the Far East, people weren't quite clear where. But she's given a woollen jacket and trousers, and he saw at once just how close this young orang was to a young human.

[Clip from Creation, 2009]

What is that, Jenny?

[Randal Keynes]

You know, it's historic. This is a human looking at an animal and for the first time thinking, clearly and positively, "How close may we be."