

US vs. THEM

A few of the ways humans are distinct in kind and degree from animals.

We plan.
We think about the past and future.
We make intentional decisions.
We delay gratification for long periods.
We engage in long-range trade.
We adults play.
We dance.
We make music.
We have language and communicate symbolically.
We invent languages (spoken, written, and digital code).
We write novels and poetry.
We have mathematics and art.
We domesticate other species to serve or entertain us.
We engage in cultivation and agriculture.
We make and wear clothing.
We engage in hospitality.
We control and use fire.
We measure time.
We practice religion and engage in worship.
We bury our dead.
We have empathy for others and show altruism at a level unseen in the animal kingdom.

We care for the infirm and the elderly.
We invent.
We explore environments unnatural to us (undersea, space).
We contemplate beauty.
We contemplate the meaning of existence.
We construct highly complex structures.
We are conscious of our own consciousness.

And the list could go on and on. We humans are essentially different from all of animal life.