

For Creative Minds

This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Primate or Not?

Primates come in all shapes and sizes. A pygmy marmoset weighs only 3.5 ounces (less than a smartphone). A gorilla can weigh over 400 pounds (as much as a piano). But even though there are many types of primates, they all share certain traits. Using the list of traits below, identify which animals on this page are primates. Answers are below.

All primates have:

- fingers and toes.
- the ability to sit or stand upright. Most primates can walk on two feet (bipedal) for small distances. Only humans walk on two feet for most of their life.
- eyes on the front of their face.
- a reduced sense of smell and smaller noses than other mammals.
- a heightened sense of sight. Most primates can see color.
- large brains for their body size.
- babies that take a long time to mature.
- longer lifespans than other mammals.

Almost all primates have opposable thumbs. "Opposable" means that the thumb bends in a different direction. This helps the primate grab objects.

dog



Allen's swamp monkey



human



turtle



elk



siamang



horse



gorilla



Primates: Allen's swamp monkey, human, siamang, gorilla

Endangered Species

Dinosaurs. Woolly mammoths. Eastern cougars. Baiji river dolphins. We know of animals that once lived on this earth but have disappeared forever. They are extinct. Some animals today are not extinct, but may become extinct soon if we don't help them. These animals are called endangered species. An animal's conservation status (chart on the right) can tell you if that species is in danger of extinction.

Almost half of all primate species are endangered or critically endangered. This happens because of habitat loss, poaching, and hunting. Without help, these animals could also become extinct.

Many zoos and sanctuaries support conservation efforts to help save these animals. These include protecting natural habitats, caring for injured animals and releasing them back into the wild, teaching people about endangered animals, and working to prevent poaching.

You can support conservation efforts too! Learn about endangered species all around the world. Pick up litter so animals don't eat it or get trapped in it. Participate in "citizen science" programs. You can find these through your local zoos, wildlife sanctuaries, parks, nature centers, or a government agency responsible for protecting the wildlife in your area (Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources, Fish and Game, etc.). These will help you learn about endangered animals in your area and how to help them.

LC—Least Concern:

A species that is not currently at risk of becoming endangered.

NT—Near Threatened:

A species that may become endangered in the near future.

VU—Vulnerable:

A species that will soon become endangered unless people do something to change the situation.

EN—Endangered:

A species in trouble. It may become extinct if people don't help.

CR—Critically Endangered:

A species in dire trouble. It is likely to become extinct without immediate help.

EW—Extinct in the Wild:

A species that only lives in captivity. The species still exists only because people take care of it.

EX—Extinct:

A species we'll never see again. Extinction is forever.



chimpanzee
status: EN



françois'
langur
status: EN



white-cheeked
gibbon
status: CR



ring-tailed
lemur
status: EN



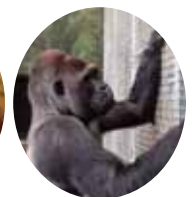
siamang
status: EN



blue-eyed
lemur
status: CR



Sumatran
orangutan
status: CR



western
lowland gorilla
status: CR

Talk Like a Chimp

In the primate family, chimpanzees are one of humans' closest animal cousins. Humans and chimps have a lot in common. Like humans, chimps live in groups, make tools, work together, and take care of each other. They use sound, gestures, and facial expressions to talk to each other and show how they feel.

Chimps use different sounds and calls to talk to each other. They whimper, scream, bark, and grunt. Different sounds have different meanings, like words do for people. Chimps say "hello" with a sound called a pant-hoot. Just like your voice sounds different from other people's, every chimp's pant-hoot is unique. That way, the chimps know who is making the sound, even if they can't see each other.



Say "hello" like a chimp: Make an "o" shape with your mouth. Breathe out and make short, hooting "oo" sounds.
What are some ways you use sound to communicate?



Chimps use their bodies to communicate. They stamp their feet, hug, swing their arms, jump, tickle, and scratch. Chimps tell each other to come closer by beckoning with their arm or by grabbing and pulling. They stick out a foot to tell young chimps, "climb on me." If a chimp wants to say "back off" to another chimp, they punch the ground or wave their arms.

Say "stop that!" like a chimp: stomp both feet or gently tap whomever you are telling to stop.
What are some ways you use your body to communicate?

Chimps make many different expressions with their faces, just like people do. If they are frustrated or want something, they scrunch in their eyebrows and make an "o" shape with their lips. If they are afraid or excited, they bare their teeth.



Say "I feel playful" like a chimp: relax your face and smile with your mouth open, like you are about to laugh.
What are some ways you use your face to communicate?

Enrichment

Animals in the wild are always busy learning. Zookeepers know what primates do in their natural environments and give them opportunities to learn in their enclosures. They create a schedule so they can continually change activities and keep the animals interested.

Food is an important source of enrichment. The animals love treats but the keepers have to make sure that the animals don't get too much sugar. Snacks include: nuts, unsweetened oatmeal, rice, seeds, and dried fruit. The food may be hidden in a box or toy so that the animals work to find it. In the summer, keepers and volunteers freeze juice to make healthy popsicles for the primates.



gorilla



hamadryas baboon



golden lion tamarin



ring-tailed lemur



Allen's swamp monkey

Like kids have jungle gyms at recess, animals have enrichment items in their habitats. These can be platforms, perches, swinging ropes, hanging feeders or places to hide and to dig. The primates jump, play, swing, and climb on the objects in their enclosure.

Primates love to play, just like human children do! Toys give the primates new objects to learn about and explore. The animals play with Kong toys and examine jigsaw puzzles. They snuggle stuffed animals and carry large boomer balls.



white-cheeked gibbon



white-cheeked gibbon



white-cheeked gibbons



siamang



hamadryas baboon