



AFRICAN MONKEY BUSINESS

Make observations of monkeys



GRADES 4-6

KEY WORDS

- de Brazza's monkey
- colobus monkey

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.3

OBJECTIVES

- Students will draw conclusions based on observations of monkeys.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo currently houses de Brazza's and colobus monkeys, among other primate species.
- de Brazza's monkeys are covered with brown fur with a whitish upper-lip and white chin fur. They also have a thin, white thigh stripe and a ginger-colored brow.
- Colobus monkeys are black with white fur bordering their face and trailing down their back and rump. They have long, thick hair, with a trim of white. Finishing the look is a two-foot-plus long tail, ending in a fluffy tip of white.
- Black and white colobus monkeys move easily in trees, but they do it with practically no thumbs at all. The small bump-like digit that passes for a thumb provides little help in gripping branches. When they need to jump from branch to branch, they use their four full-sized fingers to form a hook that helps them grasp a branch.

PROCEDURE

- After observing the monkeys, have students fill out the worksheet.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Students' worksheets are graded based on accuracy of answers.
- Discuss observations of the monkeys.

ANSWER KEY

De Brazza's Monkey

1. answers may vary but could include barking or hiding
2. beard
3. orange
4. longer
5. 5

Colobus Monkey

1. the coloration provides contrast to the environment and allows for mate recognition
2. thumb, colobus monkeys use their four other fingers when climbing and swinging
3. the eyes are further apart to allow for greater depth perception
4. white
5. flanks allow the colobus monkeys to be aerodynamic when jumping through the jungle trees





AFRICAN MONKEY BUSINESS

As you travel through the African Journey, answer these questions about the zoo's two African monkeys



DE BRAZZA'S MONKEY

Name _____

1. If danger is near, what does this monkey do first? _____.
2. The de Brazza's monkey has a long, white _____.
3. The color above the eyes on the forehead is _____.
4. The de Brazza's monkey's tail is shorter, the same as, or longer than its body and legs. (circle one)
5. How many toes are on each foot? _____.

COLOBUS MONKEY

1. Why does the colobus monkey have black and white fur?
2. Look at the handprint on the colobus monkey sign. When scientists first discovered the colobus monkey they thought one of the monkey's fingers had been cut off. They chose the name "colobus" because it means "mutilated one." Which digit do you think is missing? How can you tell?
3. The colobus has excellent color vision, depth perception, and visual acuity. Where are the eyes located and why are they placed this way?
4. What color fur is on the sides of the body and at the end of the long tail?
5. How does the colobus use the hair on its flanks (sides) while jumping through the jungle trees?

