

Science Story Adventures



African Primates

Learning outcomes

- » Plants and animals have predictable life cycles.
(Grade 2 - Life Sciences)
- » Adaptations in physical structure or behavior may improve an organism's chance for survival.
(Grade 3 - Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Gorilla's Story by Harriet Blackford

Baboon by Kate Banks

Activities we did

- » We talked about the characteristics of primates.
- » We looked at a replica of a gorilla skull and talked about what the skull can tell us about what it eats.
- » We looked at a replica of a gorilla hand and compared it to our own hands.

Today's craft: Primate Hands

Directions:



You will need:

- » Gorilla hand sheet
 - » Pencils
 - » Colored pencils, crayons or markers
1. Print the gorilla hand sheet, which is the size of an average gorilla hand. There is a link to a pdf of this sheet in the blog entry.
 2. Trace your hand inside the gorilla hand.
 3. On each finger and thumb of the gorilla hand write or draw how you and gorillas are alike.
 4. Color in the hands or decorate them with plants and animals you might see in Africa or with different primates.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Asombrosos Monos by Lisa Westberg Peters. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .P925 S7318

With amazing photos and clear text, this book introduces children to the characteristics and behaviors of monkeys from around the world in Spanish.

Chimpanzees & Bonobos by John Bonnett Wexo. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .P96 E49 1990

A close-up look at chimpanzees and bonobos that includes activities for kids.

Gorilla Doctors: Saving Endangered Great Apes by Pamela Turner. Nat. Ctr. Juv. SF997.5.G65 T87 2005

Travel to Rwanda to see how scientists with the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project are working to protect these endangered animals. Part of the *Scientist in the Field* series.

Monkeys and Other Primates by Rebecca Sjonger & Bobbie Kalman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL737 .P9 S53 2006

What makes a primate a primate? Learn all about them with this book.

DVDs/Videos

Life--Primates

Through stunning footage this episode of the acclaimed *Life* series shows the diversity and incredible behaviors of our closest relatives.

Monkeys & Apes Nat. Ctr. Media QL737 .P9 A42 1997

With Henry, the cartoon lizard, kids learn what "makes a gibbon sing and a howler monkey howl." Part of the *Amazing Animals* series.

Websites

African Primates at Home

Information about and recordings of primates from East Africa.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~primate/primates.html>

Discover Chimpanzees--Jane Goodall Institute

Meet the chimpanzees and researchers at Gombe National Park in Tanzania. Try your hand at chimpanzee games and crafts.

<http://www.discoverchimpanzees.org/>

National Geographic Kids, Creature Features--Mountain Gorilla

Fun facts, photos, and videos about mountain gorillas. Also, includes links to pages about other primates.

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/kids/animals/creaturefeature/mountain-gorilla/>