

## Project:

### Write about orang-utans!



Orang-utans are critically endangered great apes, found only on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Young orang-utans stay with their mothers for longer than any other apes (other than humans!), often staying with her until they are around 9 years old. Since 1999, more than 100,000 orang-utans have been killed in Borneo alone. Their forest homes are being destroyed to make way for logging, mining and palm oil plantations. The apes are also hunted and the babies sold into life in the illegal pet trade and entertainment industry.

Monkey World is home to 14 orang-utans; 6 of the orang-utans were born in the wild in Borneo before being stolen from their homes. Before they were rescued RoRo was kept as a pet and lived in a cage in somebody's kitchen, and Lucky lived in a cage in an amusement arcade. Both of them would have been babies when their mothers were killed and they were smuggled out of Borneo and into Taiwan.



RoRo at Monkey World

#### Writing Tasks:

- 1) Research the impact of deforestation on orang-utans and write an informative article (for a newspaper or website) about how it has caused them to be an endangered species.
- 2) Research palm oil and how it contributes to deforestation in Borneo and Sumatra. Write a letter to your local supermarket to persuade them to stock more palm oil free products.
- 3) Write a descriptive short story about either Lucky or RoRo's lives before being rescued. Use lots of description and emotive language to show how they would feel.