

## Home Education Lesson 7: Social Organisation slides & notes

### Slide 1



We're back for lesson seven of our home education course, where we'll be exploring primate social organisation. In today's lesson we will investigate:

- Six types of primate groups/communities
- How we meet our primates' social needs at Monkey World

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Too often the primates rescued by Monkey World have spent years living alone, without any others of their own kind. Primates are highly intelligent and **social** animals, who desperately need to live in family group that suits their species. Any visit to Monkey World will show you that our primates live in groups of varying sizes, from large communities of chimpanzees to pairs of gibbons. Primate social groups will contain different combinations of adult males, adult females, and offspring of varying ages, but the number of individuals and mixture of adults will depend on the species. In today's lesson we will explore the different types of social groups seen in wild primates, and how we try to replicate this for the rescued primates at Monkey World.

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**Noyau** is a type of family group seen in orang-utans and some small nocturnal prosimians. Adult males live mostly solitary lives, and meet with females occasionally to breed. The adult males have large territories that allow them to cross paths with several different females. The females will live with just their offspring, and not with any other adults. The babies will learn everything they need for their survival from their mother before maturing and separating from her.

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Orang-utans have the longest childhoods of any non-human primate, with the youngsters often living with their mothers until they are around 9 years' old. During this period they will learn how to stay safe, how to travel, how to find food and water, how to build a nest... all from just their mother. Orang-utans have a very low reproductive rate, with females only having one baby every 6-8 years. This large gap between babies allows mum to invest valuable time in preparing her children for adult life, and it gives older daughters the opportunity to learn how to care for a baby before moving away from their mum.

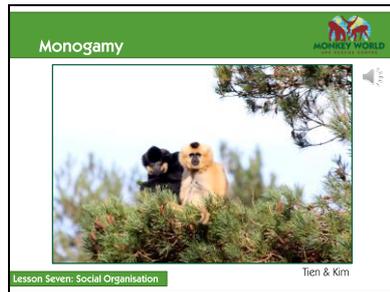
Over the past 30+ years, Monkey World has rescued orang-utans from the illegal wildlife trade, as well as seen babies born at the park, and provided a home for orphaned youngsters from other centres in Europe. The Orang-utan Nursery is Europe's official hand-rearing centre for any baby orang-utans who are

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orphaned or rejected by their mothers. Without a mother of their own, female orang-utans will often struggle to successfully care for their own babies, resulting in a cycle of babies who need to be hand-reared by people and therefore don't make good parents themselves. Through our specialist groups, we are able to integrate orphaned babies into families that equip them for adult life and parenthood. Hujan is a little boy who was born at Krefeld Zoo in Germany; his mum became very unwell after he was born and was unable to care for him. He now lives in Tuan's Group at Monkey World, where he is fostered by RoRo. They were slowly introduced so they could get to know each other, but now they spend all of their time together. Hujan also lives with 8 year old Awan who acts as a big sister to him – Awan probably doesn't realise it, but she is also learning how to be a good mum by watching RoRo look after Hujan! Young females Mimi and Rieke are also learning these skills from their time living in the Nursery with foster mum, Oshine.

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A **monogamous family** group is made up of an adult male, an adult female and their offspring – mum, dad and the kids! In humans, this is often referred to as a **nuclear family**. As the children mature, their parents push them to leave the family group and form their own group. This type of family is seen in primates such as gibbons, tarsiers and titi monkeys.

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In order to save space for future rescues, we breed from very few of the primates at Monkey World. We previously bred our golden-cheeked gibbons as part of the European Endangered Species Breeding Programme (EEP), as our rescued gibbons' wild DNA would help to continue their captive conservation. Peanut and Pung-yo were both rescued from the illegal wildlife trade and have formed a strong monogamous **bond** together. They have had three children, Tien, Tia-nang and Teo, all of whom were successfully cared for by their parents until they outgrew their family group. We no longer breed any of the gibbons at the park, but Peanut and Pung-yo's eldest children have formed bonds of their own with another pair of siblings born at the park: Kim and her brother Zak. Kim and Tien live at Monkey World, and Tia-nang and Zak live together at a zoo in France.

Monkey World is also home to two pairs of gibbons who wouldn't have ever formed a monogamous bond in the wild: Paul and Kitty (an agile

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gibbon and a lar gibbon), and Fox and Ella (a Mueller's gibbon and a lar gibbon). Making sure that our gibbons' social needs are met is a top priority for us, so it doesn't matter that some of our gibbons are different species as long as they are happy in each other's company, like Fox and Ella!

Slide 7



**Polyandry or polyandrous groups** are found among the smallest New World Monkeys – marmosets and tamarins. There may be a few adults in the group, but only the dominant female will have babies, but the whole group works together to share food, and to carry and care for the offspring. These small New World Monkeys are more likely to have twins, triplets or even quadruplets so having the entire family involved will help mum and babies to survive.

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Monkey World is frequently asked to help rescue and rehome unwanted pet marmosets by the public, police and RSPCA. Sadly, these small monkeys can still be purchased in the UK entirely legally without a licence. In recent years we have witnessed a huge increase in the number of people buying marmosets, before realising that primates have complex needs and are not easy pets to keep. Baby marmosets should stay with both of their parents for at least the first year of their life, but babies as young

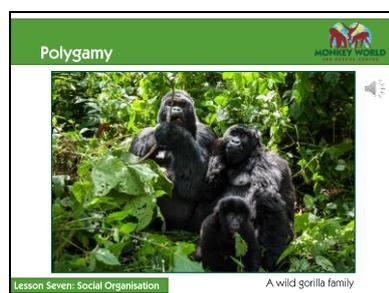
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as three months old are sold – on their own - into the pet trade. In addition to the range of physical problems they develop from inappropriate housing and diet, our rescued marmosets often arrive with no social skills after spending years on their own.

The marmosets at Monkey World live in family groups, pairs or all-male groups depending on the individuals' needs and relationships. Sadly, we are often asked to rescue babies that are far too young to have been sold into the pet trade. If the baby comes to us before it reaches a year old, they will often be adopted by an adult pair of marmosets who teach them marmoset behaviours and provide the comfort that they desperately need.

To learn more about Monkey World's campaign about UK pet primates, visit the Learning Resources page of our website and download our STAMP Resource Pack.

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**Polygamy** or **polygamous groups** are found in gorillas, baboons and howler monkeys amongst other primates. The groups generally consist of one adult male and several adult females who are the stable core of the group, defending their territory and resources. The females will choose their male from those around, and will generally select the individual who is gentle with them, but will help to defend the group. As young males mature, they will leave the family group for either a solitary

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lifestyle or to join a bachelor (all-male) group. We don't have any polygamous primates currently living at Monkey World.

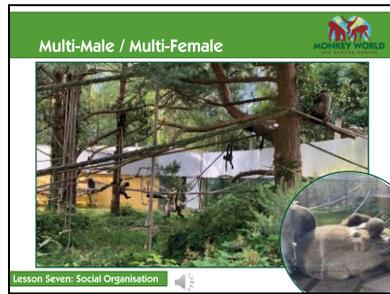
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This is one of the most common types of social grouping found in **semi-terrestrial** monkeys – groups of several males and several females, with group sizes varying between species. These groups have a **dominance hierarchy** among both the males and females, so every individual in the group is ranked against the others of their sex. This helps for all of the group members to know their place in the group – they know who they can boss around, but also who they need to listen to! For example in our group of stump-tailed macaques, Sam (white macaque in centre) is the dominant male of the group. There are only two other males in the group: Toto & Freddie, who know they always have to do what Sam tells them! Kelly (far left) is the dominant female of the group, so Noreen, Sylvie & co. always know they must do as Kelly tells them!

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Many of the monkeys that live at Monkey World live in **multi-male / multi-female** groups, including the stump-tailed macaques, the woolly monkeys, and the capuchins. Our Primate Care Staff have to balance allowing the monkeys to live and behave naturally, whilst ensuring the individuals remain safe and that no inbreeding occurs. PCS have to monitor the hierarchies in the group and how they affect the individuals of a group. Woolly monkeys are very sensitive and can become very unwell if they are stressed. Living in a big family can be stressful at times and, just like us, non-human primates can have the occasional family fall out. All of the woolly monkey enclosures at Monkey World have gymnasium-like indoor playrooms and bedrooms, and a large, natural outside enclosure that can easily be divided into two if the group need some time apart. The indoor bedrooms are hidden from public view for their privacy, and are separated into multiple rooms so they can spend time in smaller groups or on their own. Sometimes PCS will give the woollies time as two **subgroups**, where each group will have access to separate indoor and outdoor areas. There are several reasons they might choose to do this including:

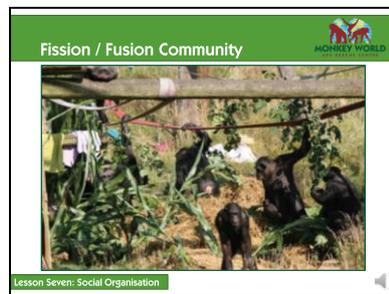
- A mum is caring for a new-born baby and needs some peace and quiet
- A new individual is being introduced to the group
- Challenges within the hierarchy

This not only keeps our monkeys relaxed, healthy and safe, but also gives them a more dynamic social

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environment where we can best support the ever-changing needs of the group.

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A **fission/fusion community** is similar to a multi-male/multi-female group, but with more fluidity and free movement. There are separate dominance hierarchies between the males and the females, but individuals will come and go more regularly. Seen in spider monkeys and chimpanzees, the size of these groups can change on a daily basis depending on factors such as food and relationships between individuals. Females and their youngsters might move casually between communities, whilst males might spend time foraging alone, or join other males in hunting for animal prey. It is the males who tend to be the stable core of the community, as they rarely join other troops. Wild chimpanzee communities have been observed to contain over 100 members, so it would be difficult to find enough suitable food and resources to sustain everybody at the same location all the time, however the entire **super group** may come together when there is an abundant food source.

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Monkey World is home to four groups of chimpanzees; three mixed-sex groups and the all-male Bachelor Boys. Over the past 33 years our chimpanzee communities have grown and evolved as individuals have been rehabilitated and learned to live with one another. Some of our earliest rescued chimps have provided invaluable support for newcomers, guiding them to chimpanzee life in a way only they can. Our four groups are now very settled communities, with some of our chimps having lived together for over 30 years! As with the other primates at the park, the chimps have access to indoor and outdoor spaces, with both areas providing an area unseen to the public. However if you are able to spend time observing the groups, you will notice that you rarely see the whole group together, unless there is lots of food present. Even if the whole group are in the outside enclosure, they will not all be together as one unit. There may be individuals sleeping or reclining in cargo nets, pairs or small groups grooming, foraging or playing together, and some will undoubtedly

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be hidden away from view. However, when the PCS arrive with a scatter feed, the group may start pant-hooting in excitement, as they all gather to eat the fresh fruit and vegetables.

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**Recap!**

- **Noyau** = mum and offspring
- **Monogamy** = mum, dad and offspring
- **Polyandry** = group with dominant breeding female
- **Polygamy** = group with dominant breeding male
- **Multi-male/multi-female** = hierarchies for males and females
- **Fission/Fusion** = multi-male/multi-female community containing fluid groups

Lesson Seven: Social Organisation

There are six types of social groups seen in wild non-human primates:

- Noyau = mum and offspring
- Monogamy = mum, dad and offspring
- Polyandry = group with dominant breeding female
- Polygamy = group with dominant breeding male
- Multi-male/multi-female = hierarchies for males and females
- Fission/Fusion = multi-male/multi-female community containing fluid groups

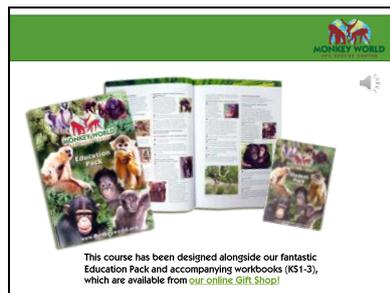
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At Monkey World we try to replicate how our primates would live in the wild, whilst managing their health and welfare. Appropriate social grouping is vital for our rescued primates' rehabilitation – Naree spent over 20 years living without other chimpanzees before she was rescued by Monkey World, now (less than two years since her arrival) she is helping to introduce recently rescued Kalu to her new family and lifestyle.

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These lessons have been designed alongside our Education Pack which is full of comprehensive information on primate classification, habitats, family groups, diets and more. It is perfect for learning more about primates at home! It is available from our online Gift Shop, along with curriculum-linked workbooks available in Keystages 1, 2 and 3!