



# Monkey World - Teacher's Guide

## Introduction

This guide has been designed to assist you in the planning and running of your school trip to Monkey World - Ape Rescue Centre. This pack contains information to help you plan the details of your day, in addition to park and primate information to enhance your pupils' learning experience.

Timings, prices and numbers are subject to change, so make sure you visit our website if you cannot find the information you are looking for. Under the Education heading you will find downloadable resources and information to use alongside your visit: [www.monkeyworld.org/education](http://www.monkeyworld.org/education)

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a booking with our Education Team, then get in touch by calling 01929 401022 or email [education@monkeyworld.org](mailto:education@monkeyworld.org)

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## Planning Your Visit

### Booking

To book your trip to Monkey World you must fill out and return our School Booking Form (available on our website) either by email or post. Please ensure that you have filled out all sections of the form and completed the Educational Talk Booking Form if you would like to book a workshop with us (please note this does incur an extra cost). Please note that we do not confirm bookings; if there is a problem with your booking we will contact you.



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## Teacher Familiarisation Visit

Teachers who have booked a trip to the park are entitled to one free visit to get to know the layout and facilities, and plan your day. Teachers are accompanied by an Education Officer during Familiarisation Visits in order to answer any questions about your visit to the park. To book your visit, contact [education@monkeyworld.org](mailto:education@monkeyworld.org) with your name, date of booking and date you wish to conduct your recce. We will then organise free entry for you on your nominated date; any additional guests will need to pay full entrance fee. Please ensure you bring valid school ID with you.

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## Accessibility

Monkey World is committed to being inclusive and accessible for all visitors. If anyone in your group has specific needs that we can help to meet (i.e. mobility, audio/visual, sensory, dietary, or other), please contact the Education Team to discuss in advance. Our Accessibility Guide is available in full on our website.

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## Outreach Sessions

Before visiting Monkey World your class could benefit from an outreach visit from one of our Education Officers. Our sessions can introduce children to our work in primate rescue and rehabilitation, providing them with a secure understanding of why good behaviour is important during their visit (see *Student Behaviour*). Additionally, our talks and workshops can help to frame a topic-led visit to Monkey World; for example our *South American Safari* session introduces children to our rainforest-dwelling primates whom they could observe during their trip. These sessions are only available to schools within a one hour drive of Monkey World and are subject to availability.

Visit our website to find out more or get in touch with our Education Team to book a session on 01929 401022 or [education@monkeyworld.org](mailto:education@monkeyworld.org).





## Education Packs

Monkey World is proud to offer our own Teacher and Student Packs available from our Gift Shop and online. Our student workbooks are available for Key Stages 1-3 and are designed for use before, during and after your visit to Monkey World. Sample pages of these useful resources can be downloaded from the Education section of our website. They can be purchased through our online Gift Shop or by calling 01929 401004.

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## Educational Workshops

All visiting school groups have the opportunity to book one of our educational workshops to enhance your pupils' learning. Please see our Session Booklet for the full list of available workshops and talks; if you would like to book onto one of our sessions, please contact [education@monkeyworld.org](mailto:education@monkeyworld.org).

If you have booked a session, please ensure you are at Meeting Point A (by the main entrance gate) approximately 5 minutes before your start time.

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## Planning and Packing

Monkey World is primarily an outdoor venue and a large park, so children and teachers should come prepared for the weather! We recommend sun cream and hats when it's sunny, and waterproof, warm clothing during the colder months. Comfortable shoes are also highly recommended as the park is over 65 acres and requires a fair amount of walking.



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## Meet & Greet

When you arrive at the park one of the Education Team will meet you at the entrance gate to process your entry and welcome you to Monkey World. They will give a brief introduction to Monkey World's work as a rescue centre and highlight the importance of good behaviour whilst at the park. Our monkeys and apes have been rescued from a number of appalling circumstances of cruelty and abuse, and are therefore here to spend the rest of their lives in peace and safety. We ask all visitors, adults and children alike, to be sensitive and empathetic towards our primates, considering how their behaviour could affect or upset them. For more information see the *Student Behaviour* section.

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## Lunch

School groups are advised to bring packed lunches into Monkey World and eat in any of our designated eating areas. We are unable to provide schools with a private room or storage for lunch so please factor this into your planning. We have two inside/sheltered eating areas, Treetops Café and Malagasy Café, in addition to picnic areas throughout the park. Please ensure you remove all rubbish once you have finished eating your lunch.

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## First Aid

We recommend that all schools visiting Monkey World ensure they bring their own first aid kit and have a qualified first aider in attendance. Whilst Monkey World does have qualified first aiders on staff, we are not medical professionals and cannot administer medication or a wide range of treatment. In the event of an emergency, please contact a member of staff as soon as possible.





## Lost Children

We recommend that teachers provide children with a sticker, wristband or hi-vis jacket complete with school/organisation name and the contact telephone number of their Group Leader. In the event of a child becoming separated from the group this will help all parties return them to their group as soon as possible.

Monkey World has a lost child procedure which we will follow in the event of finding or being notified of a lost child. We will take the child to the Adoption Centre and contact the group leader as soon as possible. Children should be informed that if they do get lost, they should tell and trust someone in Monkey World uniform.

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## During Your Visit

### Arriving

Our car park is free to use and has plentiful spaces for coaches and cars. During the summer term our car park attendants will direct your coach/minibus to a suitable parking area. We allow free entry to the park for your coach driver.

We endeavour to have an Education Officer greet all school parties and assist them in entering the park smoothly. In the event of an Education Officer not being available to meet your group, the Group Leader only should visit the entrance kiosk and check in with the gate staff. The Group Leader must tell the gate staff the correct number of children and adults to ensure you are charged correctly. Failure to inform us of smaller group numbers will result in you being charged for the numbers stated on your booking form. Once the Group Leader has checked in, the whole group can walk in together. Please ensure that all children are accompanied by adults from the walk between the coach and entrance gate.





## Toilets and Changing Facilities

We have toilets and baby changing facilities at 3 locations around Monkey World; behind the Gift Shop, next to Malagasy Café and at the bottom of the park near the Great Ape Play Area. The Gift Shop and Malagasy toilets include disabled facilities. If you require changing facilities for older children or adults, please ask a member of staff for access to the First Aid Hut to do so.

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## Student Behaviour

At Monkey World we expect a high standard of behaviour from all visiting school groups. We understand that visiting the park is exciting, but we ask that all schools inform their pupils that the primates are not to be teased, mimicked or intentionally distressed under any circumstances. Monkey World is our primates' home and all visitors are guests within it. We have signage around the park asking visitors not to copy our primates, as the unnatural behaviours seen are often the consequence of their abuse at the hands of humans. You can help us to ease pressure by keeping large groups of children out of enclosed houses where possible, and reducing noise such as shouting, screaming and laughter in these areas.

Our Education Team should greet your group and go through our expectations of behaviour, however we do rely on teaching staff to maintain this throughout the day. We reserve the right to remove anyone from the park if they are found to be feeding or upsetting the primates, or ignoring our Health & Safety rules. **Children up to and including Year 11 must be supervised by an adult at all times; if any groups of children are found unattended in the park, they will be escorted to Treetops Cafe and their Group Leader contacted.**





## Lost Property

If someone in your group loses something during your visit, check with our Gift Shop near the entrance of the park as it may have been handed in during the day. Alternatively, if you find something missing after your trip, you can call us on 01929 462537.

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## Gift Shop

Many schools choose to visit the Gift Shop at the end of or during their trip to Monkey World. We ask that teachers limit the number of children inside the Gift Shop to no more than 15 at a time. This helps our staff provide help and assistance more effectively during our busy periods, and ensures that children are supervised whilst in the shop. **Please note** that our Gift Shop is currently operating on a card only basis, but we are able to organise a cash float if required by schools. If your group wish to make cash purchases in the Gift Shop, please inform the Education Team or Entrance Gate staff on arrival.

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## After Your Visit

A visit to Monkey World is a great stimulus for follow-up work and class projects. Here are some of our ideas to keep your class thinking about our work in primate rescue and conservation!

- Practise persuasive writing with letters and leaflets on topics such as the legal British primate pet trade or use of palm oil
- Write poems or stories about the lives of our rescued primates
- Create an art project based on the colours and textures seen at the park
- Consider how we are adapted to our environment compared to some of the primates at Monkey World





## Park and Primate Information

Monkey World was set up in 1987 by New Yorker Jim Cronin to provide a permanent, stable home for chimpanzees who were victims of the Spanish beach photography trade. Jim witnessed the abuse suffered by chimpanzees used in the Spanish beach photography trade – chimpanzee families hunted and killed in African forests, surviving babies smuggled from the wild and transported illegally into Europe for a lonely and abusive life. This experience spurred him to set up his own rescue centre, which he started with a small financial loan and a long lease on a derelict pig farm in Dorset.

The work of Monkey World was becoming increasingly well-known and respected when Alison first visited the Park in 1992. Originally from California, she had two degrees in biological anthropology from Cambridge University, was completing a PhD in animal behaviour, and was also rescuing and rehabilitating wild animals – not primates, but bears! Alison and Jim first met at the park to discuss electric fence designs for rescued apes and bears. The couple married in 1996 and Alison became Scientific Director of Monkey World.

Now, 30 years on, Monkey World is over 65 acres. A dedicated team of over thirty Primate Care Staff looks after more than 250 primates. At Monkey World many different species of primate from around the world, including chimpanzees, orang-utans, gibbons, macaques, woolly monkeys, squirrel monkeys, marmosets, tamarins and lemurs, enjoy a safe haven of care and a home for life where they are free to be themselves and enjoy the companionship of their own kind in a natural environment. Nurtured and rehabilitated at Monkey World, they learn how to be apes and monkeys again.

Jim Cronin sadly passed away in 2007, following a short battle with cancer; but the rescue work continues through Dr Alison Cronin, Jeremy Keeling and the Monkey World team. They work tirelessly with many governments worldwide to stop the illegal smuggling of apes and monkeys out of Africa, Asia and South America where they are abused in the tourist and entertainment industry and the illegal pet trade. Monkey World now plays an important role in the conservation of endangered primate species.

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# Activity Trail

Start at one of the woolly monkey enclosures at the very top of the park, close to the entrance gate.

## Station 1: Woolly Monkeys

Woolly monkeys live in South America in the wild. What do you think life in the rainforests is like? How is it different to here in the UK?



Look at the woolly monkeys' tails. What do they use them for?

*Woolly monkeys have specially-adapted **prehensile** tails, which they can use just like a fifth arm or leg. The tail can support the woolly monkey's entire body weight, so they can use it to hang from a branch or rope and forage for food underneath. This makes it easier to jump out of the way of predators in the wild, and leaves both arms free to search through the bushes!*

Can you spot any woolly monkeys eating, or searching for food in the grass and bushes? Woolly monkeys eat the equivalent of around 32% of their body weight in food every day! At Monkey World, the woolly monkeys are given a variety of foods such as fruit, vegetables, insects, leaves and flowers. Herb gardens are also planted in their enclosures, as the woolly monkeys use the herbs to self-medicate when they need to. *What types of food can you see around this enclosure?*

Move to the Templer Pavilions, where there are two large groups of chimpanzees.

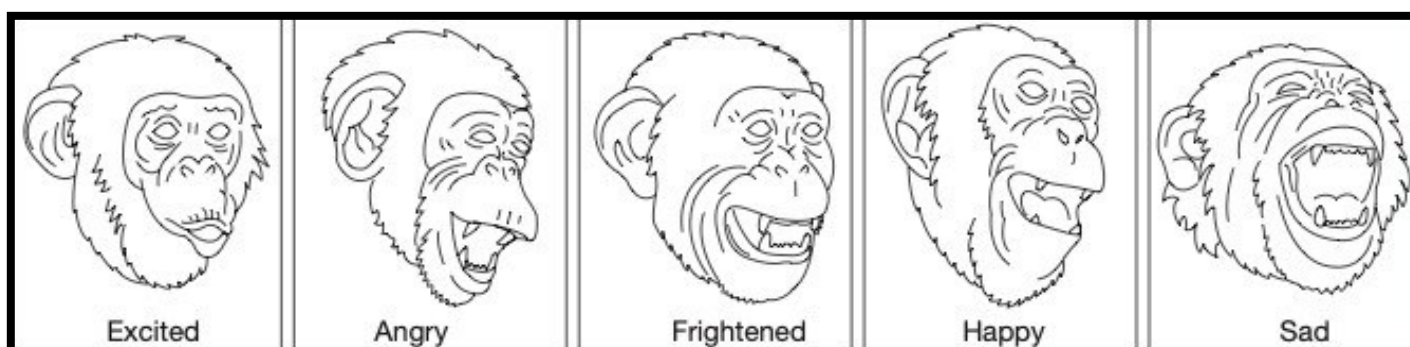
## Station 2: Chimpanzees

How are the chimpanzees different to the woolly monkeys we have seen?

*Chimpanzees, orang-utans and gibbons are all apes. Woolly monkeys, capuchins and marmosets are monkeys. An easy way to tell if a primate is a monkey or an ape is to see if it has a tail; monkeys have tails whereas apes do not! Humans are primates too; are we monkeys or apes?*

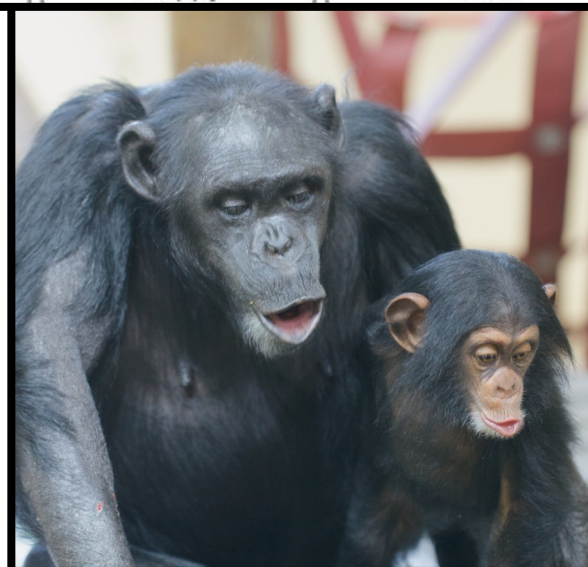
Chimpanzees use a wide variety of different facial expressions to communicate with each other.

Have a go at making some of the chimpanzees' facial expressions to others in your group. How are the meanings of these different from those of the facial expressions we



make? Think about how people may mistake a chimpanzee for being happy when they are actually frightened or angry. **\*\*Please ensure that this activity is not done in view of the chimpanzees as this could be confusing and distressing\*\***

Can you see any chimpanzees walking around? How many of their feet and hands do they use to walk? Chimpanzees are **quadrupedal**, meaning that they walk on all fours. Can you try walking on all fours? Chimpanzees' arms are longer than





their legs. They usually place the soles of their feet and the knuckles of their hands on the ground to move around; they are therefore known as 'knuckle walkers'!

Walk on to the orang-utan nursery. The outdoor area is at the side and back of the building, opposite the gibbon complex.

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### Station 3: Orang-utans

Monkey World is the European crèche for baby orang-utans. Anywhere in Europe, if there is a young orang-utan whose mother cannot look after them, they can come to Monkey World to get the care they need and live with others of their own kind from a very early age. *What things do you think a baby orang-utan might need? What can you see in this enclosure for the orang-utans who live here?*

Just like us, most primates have **opposable thumbs**. Thumbs make it easier for primates to grip and climb, hold objects and use tools. Try picking something up without using your thumbs – see how much more difficult it is to hold objects!



Move on to the gibbon complex, situated nearby the orang-utan nursery.



## Station 4: Gibbons

Can you see any of the gibbons' feet? How are they different from our feet?

*Gibbons, orang-utans and chimpanzees have opposable big toes, just like having a thumb on the side of your foot! This helps them to grip or hold objects as they are swinging through the trees. Can you pick things up with your feet? Have a go!*

Can you see any of the gibbons swinging? This is called '**brachiating**' (*brack · ee · ating*). Gibbons are very agile and can move very quickly through the trees in this way – up to around 30 miles per hour!

Find an enclosure which houses golden-cheeked gibbons. Are all the golden-cheeked gibbons the same colour, or do they look different?

Golden-cheeked gibbons go through several colour changes in their lifetimes. When a golden-cheeked gibbon is born, they are a golden-blond colour. At around a year



old, the gibbon's hair will gradually become darker and they will turn black with beautiful golden cheeks. If the gibbon is a male, he will stay black for the rest of his life. If the gibbon is a female, when she is ready to have babies she will gradually turn blonde again! Can you point out who is male and who is female in this enclosure? Can you think of any other species where males and females look different from each other? (*Mallard ducks, lions, peacocks and peahens, deer, orang-utans...*)



# Explorer Trail

Start outside the Templer Pavilions, where you can view the indoor playrooms of the Bachelors and Bart's Group, and Bryan's Group's outdoor enclosure.

## Chimpanzees

Many of the chimpanzees at Monkey World have been rescued from the entertainment industry in Spain, where they were used as photographers' props. With the goal of making money from tourists who would pose for a photograph with a 'cute' baby chimpanzee, the photographers would knock their teeth out, beat them, drug them and force them to wear human clothing and shoes. Abusing the young apes would force them into submission, allowing the photographers to work them for up to 16 hours per day.



Chimpanzees are native to sub-Saharan Africa. Before being used as a photographers' prop, in a research laboratory or kept as a pet, a baby chimpanzee would have to be smuggled from the wild. It is estimated that, for every baby chimpanzee smuggled from the wild, up to ten members of its family group are killed as they try to protect the baby. *If every chimpanzee in this group had been smuggled in the wild, how many additional chimpanzees would have been killed? Can you see why chimpanzee populations are declining so dramatically in the wild?*

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## Capuchins

Most of the capuchin monkeys at Monkey World arrived as part of the biggest primate rescue mission in history! In 2008, eighty-eight capuchins arrived at the park after a life in medical research laboratories in Santiago, Chile. Their move from Chile to the UK took three days and involved the help of the Chilean Air Force, with special permission to land at Bournemouth Airport!

Look at the cage on the left hand side of the viewing window. During their time spent in laboratories, the capuchins were kept in these individual cages, without room to walk around, climb or play. The handles on the front of the cage attach to a panel at the back; they can be used to slide the panel forward and trap the animal between the moveable panel and the front of the cage. This made it easier for researchers to give injections or administer treatments to the capuchins.

You might notice that some of the capuchins still display some **stereotypical behaviours** from their previous lives in the small cages, including turning their heads and pacing. These behaviours are by-products of spending lots of time in a small space, without others of their own kind. Now at Monkey World, the capuchins have got lots more space to move around in, branches and ropes to climb on and, importantly, others of their own kind. It's always great to see the capuchins climbing high – can you spot any up in the trees?

Continue up the hill, coming to a stop between the two orang-utan enclosures.

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## Orang-utans

Looking to your right, you will see Tuan's group of orang-utans. Tuan is one of two adult male orang-utans at Monkey World. Male orang-utans can be easily identified because of their large **cheek flanges**, which give a male's face its round, flat shape. They are also larger and more hairy than females. When males and females of a species look very different from each other, we call this **sexual dimorphism**. Mallard ducks are a good example of strong sexual dimorphism; the females are mottled brown and the males are more colourful with green, grey and yellow. *Can you find any other species at Monkey World which exhibit strong sexual dimorphism?*

Look at one of the orang-utans. *How does the length of their arms differ from the length of their legs, and how does this compare to humans?* Wild orang-utans spend up to 95% of their time up in the trees, so they need long arms to help them reach and climb! Their arms are usually much longer than their legs, and adult male orang-utans can have an arm span of up to two metres from fingertip to fingertip! How do your arms compare?

Turn around to face the orang-utan nursery opposite Tuan's

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## Orang-utans

*How many babies can you spot in this group?* Monkey World is the European crèche for any young orang-utans whose mothers aren't able to look after them. Here, we are able to hand-rear orang-utans if necessary, and enable babies to grow up in the Nursery with others of their own kind.

Both species of orang-utan – Bornean and Sumatran – are classed as **critically endangered** by the IUCN. It is estimated that there may be as few as 54,000 Bornean and 15,000 Sumatran individuals remaining in the wild. As a result, both species are part of endangered species breeding programmes, which Monkey World is involved in.



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The biggest threat to wild orang-utans at present is the destruction of their habitats to make room for crops. The **palm oil industry** has already seen tens of thousands of square miles of rainforest cleared to make room for palm plantations. Palm oil is found in many everyday items, including biscuits, cakes and cosmetics. *Have you got brought any packaged food with you today? Have a look at the ingredients. In 2014, it became EU law that companies have to clearly label palm oil in their ingredients lists. Does anything you have brought with you today contain palm oil? Other than avoiding non-sustainable palm oil, can you think of anything else we can do to help wild orang-utans and other rainforest species?*

Walk down the path to your left, past Malagasy Café, to the marmosets enclosures.  
Don't forget to look up!



## The UK Primate Pet Trade

Think of three words to describe a marmoset. These 'tiny', 'cute' primates, along with several other species of small monkey, are often victims of the **UK legal pet trade**. At present in this country, it is still possible to acquire and keep one of these monkeys as a pet without any licensing or background checks. Often, unscrupulous breeders and dealers will give false information to potential owners in order to make a quick sale, telling them that the monkeys can be kept indoors on their own and fed sweet and unhealthy treats. Many of the small monkeys who have arrived at Monkey World have had deformities or deficiencies as a result of the way they have been kept.

Monkey World have campaigned for a change in the law for many years, and from 2020 were consulted by government ministers about changing the law. Finally on the 5th March 2024, The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2023



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were signed into law. Coming into force from 6th April 2026, it means that existing primate keepers have two years to reach compliance with the welfare and licensing standards, and after that anyone who does not have a license or meet welfare standards will be breaking the law.

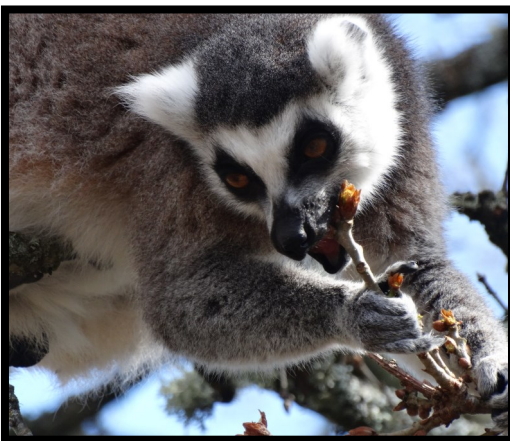
Continue past the marmosets to the viewing window of the ring-tailed lemurs

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## Ring-Tailed Lemurs

There are around 100 different species of lemur, and they all come from one place in the wild! Lemurs are native to the island country of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa, where they inhabit rainforests. As Madagascar is the only place where wild lemurs reside, they are at particular risk of extinction – if all the rainforests here are destroyed to make room for crops and livestock, there will be no habitat left for lemurs to live in.

How does a ring-tailed lemur settle a disagreement? With a stink fight! In order to establish who's in charge, or when fighting over mates during the breeding season,



ring-tailed lemurs will settle their differences by determining who is the smelliest! Each lemur will use the scent glands on their wrists and bottoms to cover their tails in a smelly substance. Two individuals will then stand face to face and shake their tails above their heads in the direction of the other, until one eventually backs down and the other is the winner!

