



Week One: What are Primates?

Higher Level Activities & Projects

Did you know that you are a primate?!

Humans are primates, just like chimpanzees, woolly monkeys, and ring-tailed lemurs. Despite our obvious differences, we share particular features that make us all primates.

To learn more about what it means to be a primate, first work through our lesson **What are Primates?**, then complete the follow-up activities below!

Activity A

Primates' suite of distinguishing characteristics make them well-adapted for life in the trees, but what if we changed one of those features? Pick a species of primate and one of the feature-swaps below. Research your chosen species and its lifestyle, as well as the function of your new adaptation. How would this impact your primate's behaviour, and how might they adapt to it?

Primate Characteristic	Characteristic Swap
Fingernails	Claws
Binocular Vision	Monocular Vision
Low Reproductive Rates	High Reproductive Rates

Activity B

Think about the defining primate characteristics that you exhibit. How many different ways are they useful? What do they allow you to do?

Design, plot or create an unusual "obstacle course" that puts these features to the test!

Activity C

Use the main primate characteristics as an art stimulus. For example, you could use your thumbprint to paint a primate portrait, or make a colour-coordinated collage of your favourite primate!

We would love to see what you get up to, so please send photos, videos and examples of work to education@monkeyworld.org



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Check Your Knowledge!

What have you learned about primates?

1. Which of these statements are true?

- a) Primates all have large brains, fingernails, opposable thumbs, and a clavicle.
- b) Primates all have large brains, and at least one of six other distinguishing features.
- c) All primates have six distinguishing features, and some have large brains in comparison to their body size.

2. What is a clavicle and what is its function?

3. Why do primates exhibit generalised dentition?

4. Which of the six main characteristics enable primates to accurately judge depth and distance?

5. Which statement accurately describes primate offspring?

- a) Primates have litters of offspring that mature quickly.
- b) Primates give birth to babies that require little parental investment.
- c) Primates mostly give birth to single, helpless babies, who require a lot of parental investment.