

The Proboscis Monkey (Bekantan)



The proboscis monkey, known as *bekantan* (*Nasalis Larvatus*) in Indonesia, is a species of monkey that belongs to the *Cercopithecidae* family. It is endemic to the island of Borneo and can be found mainly in Kalimantan's coastal and swampy forests. This monkey is known for its large nose and distinctive appearance.

Proboscis monkeys are medium to large-sized primates. Adult males can weigh up to 24 kilograms and have a long, pendulous nose, while females have smaller noses. Their fur is reddish-brown, and they have a long tail which helps them balance when moving through trees. One of their unique features is their webbed feet, which make them excellent swimmers.

They are diurnal and arboreal, spending most of their time in trees. Proboscis monkeys live in social groups consisting of one dominant male and several females with their offspring. They communicate using various vocalizations, such as honks and growls.

These monkeys are herbivorous and mainly eat leaves, unripe fruits, seeds, and occasionally insects. They play an important role in the forest ecosystem as seed dispersers.

The proboscis monkey is classified as an endangered species due to habitat destruction, logging, and hunting. Conservation efforts are ongoing to protect their natural habitat and prevent extinction.

A. Match the words in **Column A** with their correct **synonyms** in **Column B**.

Column A

1. species
2. pendulous
3. herbivorous
4. extinction
5. habitat destruction

Column B

- A. plant-eating
- B. vanishing
- C. hanging
- D. type
- E. environmental damage

Main Idea Questions (Multiple Choice)

1. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- A. Proboscis monkeys are excellent swimmers.
- B. Proboscis monkeys live in large groups.
- C. Proboscis monkeys live in Borneo and have a unique appearance.
- D. Proboscis monkeys are the only monkeys in Indonesia.

2. What is the main focus of the second paragraph?

- A. The behavior of proboscis monkeys.
- B. The physical characteristics of proboscis monkeys.
- C. The sound that proboscis monkeys make.
- D. The endangered status of the monkey.

3. What is the main idea of the third paragraph?

- A. Proboscis monkeys sleep in rivers.
- B. Proboscis monkeys hunt in groups.
- C. Proboscis monkeys are solitary and quiet.
- D. Proboscis monkeys are tree-living and live in social groups.

4. What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph?

- A. Proboscis monkeys eat meat.
- B. Proboscis monkeys play a role in the forest ecosystem.
- C. Proboscis monkeys live near farms.
- D. Proboscis monkeys like to fight with other animals.

5. What is the main idea of the last paragraph?

- A. The monkey's nose shape is evolving.
- B. The monkey is getting smarter.
- C. The monkey's population is declining due to threats, but conservation is ongoing.
- D. The monkey is attacking human settlements.

6. Where is the proboscis monkey mainly found?

- A. Sumatra
- B. Kalimantan (Borneo)
- C. Sulawesi
- D. Papua

7. What feature makes the proboscis monkey a good swimmer?

- A. Its long tail
- B. Its large body
- C. Its webbed feet
- D. Its reddish-brown fur

8. What is the function of the proboscis monkey's long tail?

- A. To scare predators
- B. To swim faster
- C. To balance while moving in trees
- D. To fight other animals

9. What do proboscis monkeys mainly eat?

- A. Meat and small birds
- B. Fruits and vegetables only
- C. Leaves, unripe fruits, seeds, and sometimes insects
- D. Fish and frogs

10. What are the main threats to proboscis monkeys?

- A. Tourism and weather
- B. Logging, hunting, and habitat destruction
- C. Too much food
- D. Diseases from other animals

GLOSARIUM

species	species = jenis/spesies biologis
monkey	primate = kelompok besar (monyet, kera, dll)
belongs to	untuk menunjukkan klasifikasi
endemic	digunakan untuk flora/fauna asli suatu daerah
coastal	wilayah dekat pantai
swampy	rawa-rawa
distinctive	untuk menggambarkan hal mencolok atau khas
appearance	penampilan fisik
medium to large-sized	ukuran tubuh
pendulous	menjuntai (misal: hidung bekantan jantan)
reddish-brown	warna bulu
webbed feet	kaki berselaput
excellent swimmers	pandai berenang
diurnal	aktif di siang hari
arboreal	hidup di pohon
social groups	kelompok sosial
dominant	pemimpin atau pengendali utama
communicate	berkomunikasi
vocalizations	suara/teriakan hewan
herbivorous	pemakan tumbuhan
unripe fruits	buah yang belum matang
seed dispersers	penyebar benih
endangered species	spesies terancam punah
habitat destruction	kerusakan habitat
logging	penebangan hutan
hunting	perburuan
conservation efforts	upaya pelestarian
extinction	kepunahan