News stories and idioms about... monkeys

Teacher Del, EOI Sant Vicent

Video 1. https://www.bbc.com/news/videos/c8x7zrkn7dyo
Monkeys learn to eat soil to cope with junk food
Barbary macaques in Gibraltar BBC
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fUy57Nw9zTI

Questions:

1. How has the presence of tourists changed the behaviour and eating habits of the macaques? Do you think humans are partly responsible for the problems these monkeys experience?

2. The monkeys have apparently learned to eat soil to reduce digestive problems caused by junk food. What does this discovery tell us about animals' ability to adapt to their environment?

Video 2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hadtJWOO9pM
Monkey rescued from online monkey torture ring released into wild | BBC News
BBC

Questions:

1. Minnie spent two years being rehabilitated before being released into the wild. Why do you think rehabilitation is so important for animals that have experienced abuse? Can an animal fully recover from such trauma?

2. Should people who torture animals and make money from these videos receive the same punishment as people who physically abuse humans? Why or why not?

3. Minnie was lucky enough to be rescued and returned to a protected forest. What should governments and international organisations do to prevent animal trafficking and animal cruelty (on the dark internet and wherever else)?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Video 3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VBINnZq-_7A
What does the future hold for Punch the monkey? | ABC NEWS
ABC Australia

Questions:

1. Can social media be a powerful tool for raising awareness about animal welfare or does it sometimes turn animals into entertainment?

2. To what extent can zoos provide animals with a good quality of life? What are the advantages and disadvantages of keeping wild animals in captivity?

3. The expert warns that people may want monkeys as pets because they find them cute. Why do monkeys make unsuitable pets, particularly when they grow older? What could be done to discourage people from buying exotic animals?

4. The video mentions habitat loss, illegal trafficking and monkeys being killed because they damage farmers' crops. How could local communities, governments and conservation organisations find a balance between protecting monkeys and protecting people's livelihoods?

Video 4. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HO0oqzY3Y0
Battle over monkey's selfies goes to court
Good morning America [Photographer David J. Slater vs PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals)]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zmsFVpsO3n4
FOX21 News anchors can't stop laughing at macaque story

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Questions:

1. Should animals have legal rights similar to those enjoyed by humans? If so, which rights should they have?

2. PETA argued that any money made from the photographs should benefit Naruto. Do you think animal rights organisations should be allowed to represent animals in court? Why?

3. Even though PETA lost the case, do you think the lawsuit was worthwhile? Can a legal case be considered successful if it raises awareness of an important issue, even when the organisation loses?

Video 5. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDTPoCtppXo
Disturbing video of infant monkeys at UW lab reignites debate over primate research
Fox 13 Seatle – PETA raising awareness

Questions:

1. Should monkeys be used in medical experiments if the research could potentially save human lives? Where would you draw the line between scientific progress and animal suffering?

2. The video mentions organoids, human tissue models and computer simulations as alternatives to animal testing. Do you think science will eventually be able to replace animal experiments completely? What challenges might scientists face?

3. Should governments invest more money in developing alternatives to animal testing, even if this means slowing down certain areas of medical research? Who should decide whether an experiment involving animals is justified?

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Monkey idioms: From monkeys to everyday English

Match the idiom with their meaning:

1. Monkey see, monkey do		***a.*** *to overcome a persistent problem, burden or addiction.*
2. follow suit		***b.*** *to behave in a silly or irresponsible way; to waste time or play around.*
3. monkey business		***c.*** *If you pay very little for a service or product, you shouldn't expect high quality in return.*
4. No monkey business!		***d.*** *to be extremely enthusiastic about sth. / s.o.*
5. have a monkey on your back		***e.*** *dishonest, suspicious or silly behaviour.*
6. get a monkey off your back		***f.*** *not my problem; I don't want to get involved in someone else's mess.*
7. monkey around		***g.*** *people, especially children, copy what others do without thinking.*
8. I don't give a monkey's		***h.*** *to become extremely excited, angry or enthusiastic; to lose control emotionally*
9. Not my circus, not my monkeys		***i.*** *to have a serious problem or burden that is difficult to get rid of; also used for addiction.*
10. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys		***j.*** *Behave properly; don't do anything dishonest or mischievous.*
11. go ape over something		***k.*** *to do the same as someone else, usually by following their example or decision.*
12. go bananas (softer; playful; humorous); go ape (it can be perceived as more aggressive)		***l.*** *I don't care at all. (Very informal, British English.)*



https://linguaholic.com/linguablog/monkey-idioms/

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Challenge 1. Song practice (Freddie Mercury, Living on my own)

https://lyricstraining.com/en/play/freddie-mercury/living-on-my-own/HFPTX6wkgF#a7c

Challenge 2. Choose the most suitable idiom for each situation

1. Your colleagues keep arriving late, so you start doing the same. It's a classic case of _____.
2. Your neighbours are constantly arguing about their family problems, and you decide not to get involved. _____.
3. Your boss wants experienced professionals but refuses to offer competitive salaries. _____.
4. Your friends are behaving ridiculously during an important meeting. You tell them to stop _____.
5. Your best friend has finally overcome his smoking addiction. What would you say to congratulate them? Buddy, you've finally _____.
6. A company introduces a four-day working week, and several competitors soon do the same. They _____.

Discussion: Idioms in context

1. Monkey see, monkey do: *To what extent are our attitudes, habits and consumer choices shaped by the people around us? Can you think of something you've started doing simply because other people do it?*

2. Follow suit: *When a company, celebrity or influential person takes a particular decision, how quickly do others tend to follow suit? Can you think of any examples?*

3. Monkey business: *What kinds of behaviour would you describe as monkey business in the workplace, in politics or in everyday life?*

4. Have a monkey on your back: *What kinds of personal problems can become a monkey on someone's back? Why can some habits or addictions be so difficult to overcome?*

5. Monkey around: *At what point does having fun and monkeying around become irresponsible or unacceptable? Does the answer depend on the situation?*

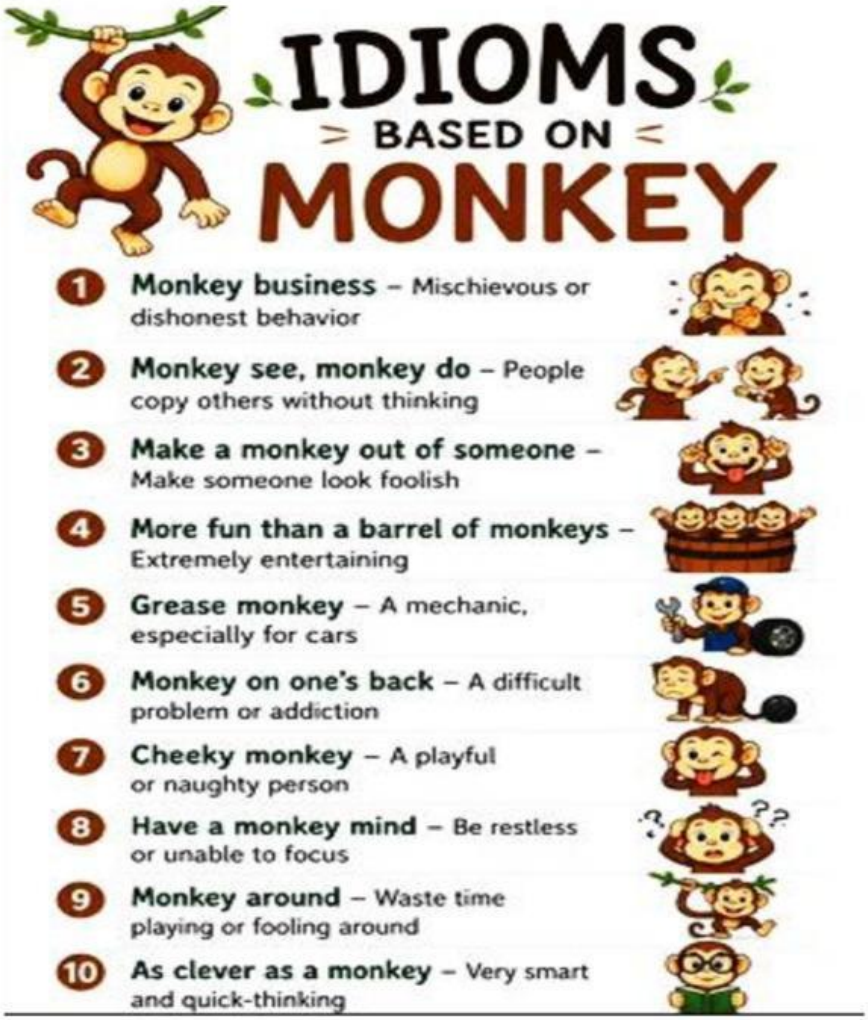
LIVEWORKSHEETS

6. I don't give a monkey's: *Are you generally someone who cares about what other people think, or do you tend not to give a monkey's? Has this changed as you've got older?*

7. Not my circus, not my monkeys (loan from a Polish proverb): *Is this a healthy attitude towards other people's problems, or can it be an excuse for avoiding responsibility? Where would you draw the line?*

8. If you pay peanuts, you get monkeys: *To what extent is this saying true? Can you think of situations where paying more doesn't necessarily guarantee better results?*

9. Go ape / go banana: *Can you think of situations in which you might go ape or go bananas? Are you more likely to lose your temper, get overexcited or behave irrationally? What tends to trigger these reactions in you?*



(Source: https://www.instagram.com/reel/DZUqPr7yR7U/)

LIVEWORKSHEETS