Read All About It

Facts About Monkeys

Read about monkeys, then answer the questions on the following pages.

Whoop! Whoop! Whoop! What is that loud sound? It's the call of the howler monkey. The loud call can be heard from as far as three miles away. The howler is one of about 250 different kinds of monkeys living in the forests, in the mountains, and on the grasslands around the world.

Monkeys have large brains, long tails, hands, eyes that look forward, and feet that can grasp tree branches. Most New World monkeys (those that live in Central and South America) have prehensile tails. This means their tails can be used to hang on to tree branches. Most Old World monkeys (those that live in Africa and Asia) have tails, but they are not prehensile.

Monkeys come in many sizes and shapes. The smallest monkey is the pygmy marmoset. It is about five inches long and weighs about four ounces. The largest monkey is the male mandrill. It is over three feet tall and weighs about 75 pounds.

Most monkeys eat plant parts such as nuts, fruits, seeds, flowers, and leaves. They also eat animals such as insects, spiders, and birds' eggs. Those living near water also hunt for crabs, clams, and small water animals. Some monkeys use large branches to kill food, such as snakes. Capuchin monkeys even use tools to get their food. They smash nuts with rocks. They poke small twigs or branches into holes to pull out insects.

Monkeys are social creatures. They live in groups called troops. The troop works together to care for their young and to protect one another. The strongest male in the troop is the leader.

Think about what you have learned about monkeys. What is one way New World monkeys and Old World monkeys are alike? How are they different?

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Research Question	Evidence from the Text
What are the main characteristics of monkeys?	
Where do monkeys live around the world?	
What do monkeys eat?	
Why do monkeys live in groups?	
How do monkeys use their tails, hands, and feet to survive?	
Which monkey is the smallest in the world?	

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