

**Topic**

Hooray! It's World Monkey Day!

**Learning outcomes**

- Share knowledge of monkeys, using an enquiry-based learning chart
- Practise talking about some of the characteristics of monkeys
- Practise drawing, writing and reading using a monkey template provided
- Improve knowledge of monkeys and their habitats
- Make a monkey mobile for the classroom
- Practise language for describing (e.g. monkeys have got long tails; they are clever; they can jump and climb; they like fruit), art and craft language (e.g. cut out the monkey; write/draw on the monkey; let's hang the monkey here)

**Age group**

Aged 9-12

**Level**

A1

**Time**

50 minutes

**Materials**

- Template (one monkey per student; if possible, photocopy on card)
- Presentation
- The About Monkeys chart to copy (if not using presentation)
- Materials: coloured cardboard for the monkeys, scissors and string to hang the first monkeys from the wall or ceiling
- Optional: coloured pencils, pens or crayons to colour the monkeys, wild animal flashcards

**Introduction**

In this lesson, children share what they know about monkeys by completing a chart. They choose the size of monkey they want to use and trace it out on cardboard and write some of the information they've

collected on it. Afterwards, students colour and cut out their monkeys. They join them together in any combination they wish to make the monkey mobile. This activity can be used as part of World Monkey Day, which is celebrated on 14 December each year. Ideas for extending the lesson are provided below.

## Procedure

<b>Before the lesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If possible, photocopy the <i>Our Monkeys</i> templates on card (one per child), or photocopy enough monkeys on paper for children to share. If using the second method, children will need to cut out the paper monkeys and trace them onto card, to cut out again.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> You could even photocopy the monkeys in a few different sizes to make an extra-interesting display.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will need scissors. You will need some string to hang the first monkey (you could use a hole punch for this too). If students are decorating their monkeys, have coloured pens or pencils on hand.</li> </ul>
<b>1. Warmer-guess the animal (10 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Play a wild animals guessing game. Mime a few different wild animals for the children to guess.</li> <li>If you have some wild animal flashcards, you could continue the activity by asking children to take turns being teacher (miming the animals for the class).</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> Some good animals to mime are monkey, gorilla, giraffe, elephant, meerkat, hippo, rhino, snake, parrot, butterfly, mouse and lion.</p>
<b>2. (10minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Display <b>slide 2</b> or draw the About Monkeys chart on the board. Students copy the template into their notebooks.</li> <li>Ask children to tell you what they know about monkeys, using the prompts in each section of the chart (e.g. monkeys have hands/feet/a long tail/a big mouth/eyes/ ears/fur; they like bananas/fruit/vegetables/their friends and family; they can climb/jump/ run/laugh/hug; they are clever/funny/naughty/friendly/aggressive/endangered).</li> <li>With younger students, complete the chart together. With older students, elicit an answer for each section as a class and then ask children to complete the chart in groups, sharing their information after about five minutes.</li> </ul>
<b>3. 10 minutes)</b>	<p>Display <b>slide 3</b> or provide an example by drawing the Our Monkeys template onto the board. Write a sentence on each of the monkeys' tummies (e.g. Monkeys like fruit; Monkeys can climb trees; Monkeys are intelligent; Monkeys like their families). Add a face and other features to your monkeys. Or display <b>slide 4</b> as an example.</p>

<b>4. (20 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give each student a cardboard monkey (or they can trace the template onto card). Students choose the sentences they want to write about their monkeys from their About Monkeys chart, using your model to help them.</li> <li>• Early finishers can write on the reverse side of their monkey as well. They draw, colour and cut out their monkeys.</li> <li>• Start the mobile by using a hole punch and some string to attach the first monkey to the ceiling or a doorway. Students add their monkeys as they finish until they complete the mobile.</li> <li>• If any of the monkeys are not staying on the mobile, make a small cut in the two monkey pieces so that one fits more securely into the other. Happy World Monkey Day!</li> </ul>
<b>5. (10 minutes)</b> OPTIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students take turns pointing to their monkeys, saying what's written on them.</li> <li>• You could extend the activity by asking children to write sentences based on all their answers in the About Monkeys chart to display on the wall alongside the mobile.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Extension activities</b>	<p><b>For younger students:</b></p> <p>We're going to the zoo: a catchy song with actions:  <a href="https://youtu.be/SSpKVUahz0I?si=l5hcvwHkG2hOjqlu">https://youtu.be/SSpKVUahz0I?si=l5hcvwHkG2hOjqlu</a></p> <p>Jungle of Brazil: sing a fun song about animals in their natural habitat:  <a href="https://youtu.be/RcLsESnnXos?si=zYicngQtyqW1jqgZ">https://youtu.be/RcLsESnnXos?si=zYicngQtyqW1jqgZ</a></p> <p><b>For older students:</b></p> <p>The story of the clever monkey:  <a href="https://youtu.be/3uOhFCaHRYY?si=1IUXF4oUvctGffUM">https://youtu.be/3uOhFCaHRYY?si=1IUXF4oUvctGffUM</a></p> <p>Research monkeys and their habitats around the world. In groups, students choose one of the following areas: Africa, South America, Central America or Asia. They then find out what kinds of monkeys live there. Younger children could make a poster with a map and some examples of monkeys from that area on it.</p>

**Contributed by**

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