

PECULIAR PRIMATES

Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures

Written by
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Illustrated by
CLAIRE POWELL

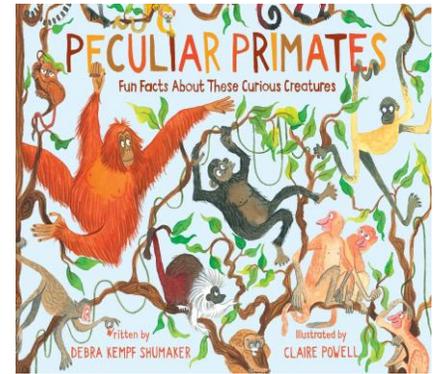
educational

TEACHING GUIDE

PECULIAR PRIMATES

Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures

teaching guide



ABOUT THE BOOK

All primates climb and breathe in air. They have big brains and hands and hair. But... some live alone, some live in groups. One primate has a nose that droops. Peculiar Primates is an adorable picture book with a scientific—and child-friendly—underpinning. With examples of different primates for each description, as well as extensive backmatter explaining the fascinating science behind their behaviors, this bizarre book captures the wonders of our ecosystem.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DEBRA KEMPF SHUMAKER

Debra Kempf Shumaker loves weird and fascinating facts. When she isn't reading or writing, Debra enjoys watching Jeopardy or hanging outside with her favorite primates—her husband and three sons. She writes from her home in Northern Virginia.

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

Before reading *Peculiar Primates: Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures* consider the following activities to engage your readers.

1. Take a picture walk of the story, flipping each page and pointing out the illustrations. Encourage students to predict what will happen in the story.
2. Host a class-wide discussion about the title. Why did the author choose that title? What might we be reading about?
3. Create K-W-L (Know, Want to Know, Learned) chart to record what students already **know** about primates and **want** to know about primates. After reading, record what students **learned**.



K	W	L

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side



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EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peculiar Primates: Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures explores a variety of unique primate species and what makes them one-of-a-kind. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL

Family Tree

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

Students learn at the very end of PECULIAR PRIMATES that humans are a species of primates as well. In fact, primates are distant relatives to people! In this social-emotional activity, students learn what a family tree is and have an opportunity to create their own. They will reflect on what they love about their family and have the chance to use both speaking and listening skills to share with their classmates and friends.

WRITING

Primate Research

Target Grade Range: 1st – 5th Grade

We learn all about the one-of-a-kind primates that inhabit our world. Take this a step further by inviting students to research one of the primate species in the story. This activity includes differentiated graphic organizers and writing paper for a range of students.

STEAM

Design a Primate Home

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

In the story we learn that trees are an important food source and shelter for many different primates. In this STEAM challenge students will design and build a tree home for a primate using materials given to them. They'll follow the engineering design process to brainstorm, plan, design, observe, and reflect on their findings. This STEAM activity can be differentiated for older and younger learners. If you're choosing to use this activity with K-2nd grade students, it may be beneficial to skip the graphic organizer and allow students to simply create. See the lesson for a list of specific materials.



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peculiar Primates: Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures explores a variety of unique primate species and what makes them one-of-a-kind. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.

SCIENCE

primate sort

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

In PECULIAR PRIMATES we learn that “All primates climb and breathe in air. They have big brains and hands and hair.” Encourage students to put their knowledge of primates to the test with this interactive and engaging sort activity. After learning what makes a primate a primate, students will look at pictures of animals and decide whether the animal is a primate or non-primate. They will cut, sort, and glue accordingly. This activity requires both scissors and glue.

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

non-fiction response

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

In this reading comprehension activity, students will study the various aspects of non-fiction text that help them better understand what they read. Students will ask questions, recall facts, draw a visual, and write new vocabulary learned after reading PECULIAR PRIMATES. The backmatter of the story is a great place to turn for new facts and vocabulary. For younger students, this activity is better completed as a whole group.

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS

compare + contrast

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

Debra Shumaker teaches us that there are different species of primates. In this reading comprehension activity, students will use a Venn Diagram to study the similarities and differences between two families of primates – apes and monkeys. The teacher guide includes links to resources to further study and teach the differences between the two types of primates.

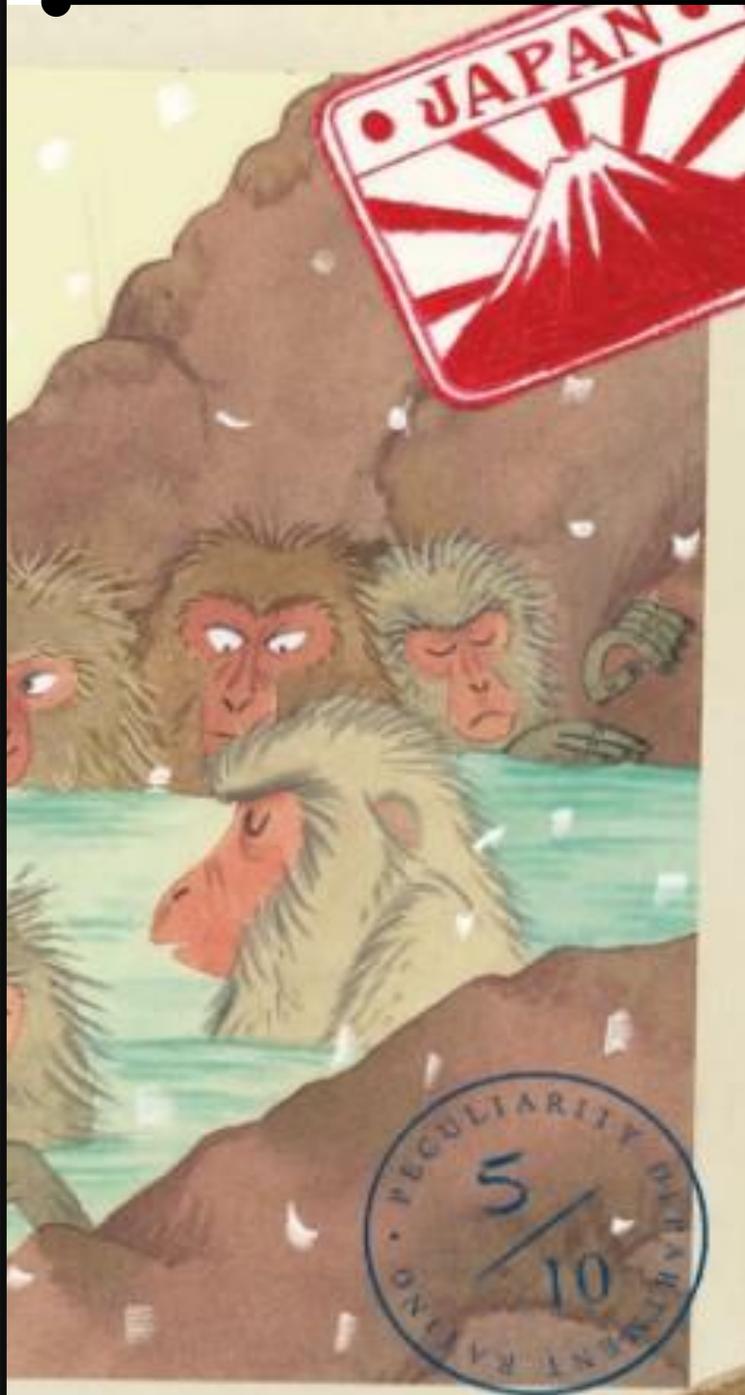


RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side



EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Peculiar Primates: Fun Facts About These Curious Creatures explores a variety of unique primate species and what makes them one-of-a-kind. The inquiry-driven activities in this guide apply to a variety of content areas and educational standards. They may be used for a range of learners and are aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.



ART

primate project

Target Grade Range: K – 5th Grade

What better way to celebrate this fun new story than with an art project? Have students show what they learned with this primate project! A range of art templates makes this activity customizable. The differentiated writing paper allows a range of learners to reflect on and write about their learning.

SOCIAL STUDIES

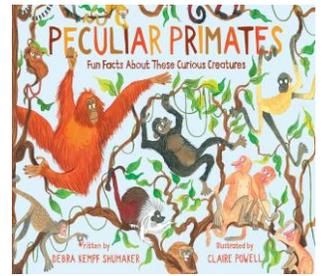
mapping primates

Target Grade Range: 3rd – 6th Grade

While humans live all across the globe, non-human primates do not. But they do live on most continents, mostly in the tropics and sub-tropics. The opportunity to study where in the world primates live allows students to work on important mapping skills. This social studies activity encourages students to put their skills to the test, as they map out primate homes world-wide.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

SOCIAL / EMOTIONAL ACTIVITY



FAMILY TREE

Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.1

You will need:

- White or colored copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the FAMILY TREE pages on white copy paper.
2. Define for students what a family tree is (A family tree is a diagram or picture showing the relationships between members of a family.)
3. Remind students that we learned how we're related to the peculiar primates we just read about.
4. Distribute the worksheet and have students draw members of their family in the picture boxes.
5. Then, they should write what they love most about their family on the lines below.
6. If time allows, encourage students to decorate and color their drawings.
7. Students will then share what they wrote with a partner, small group, or the entire class.
8. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to simply have students draw rather than write.

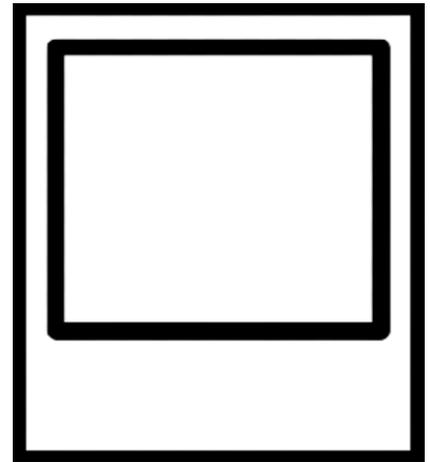
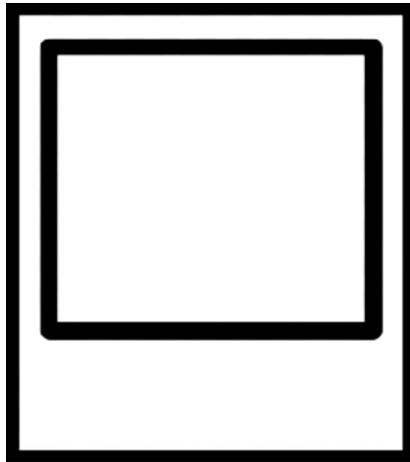
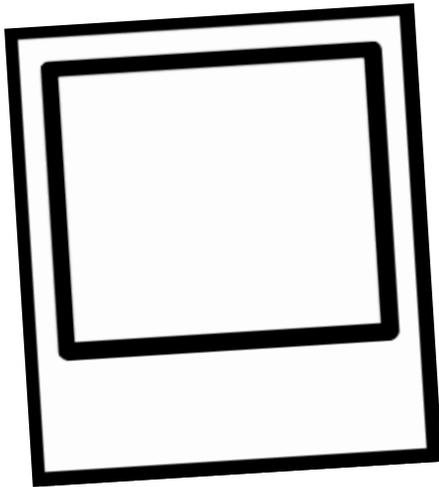
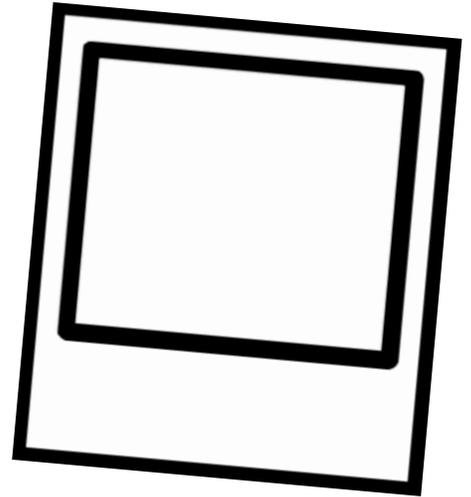
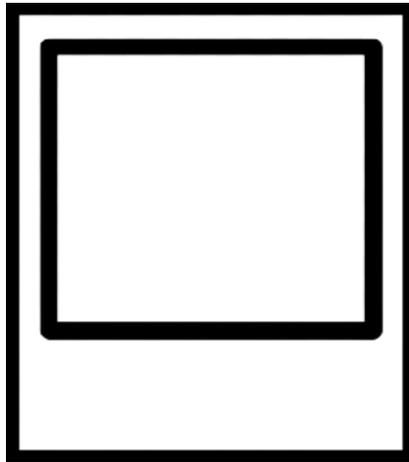
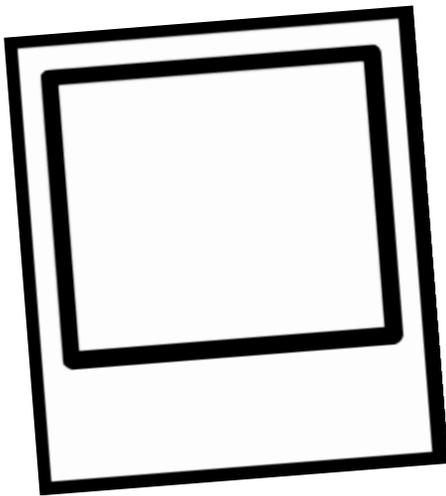
RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

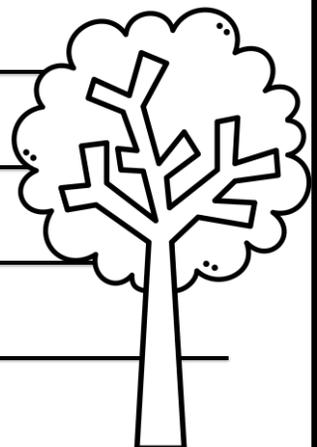
Name: _____

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the sunny side*

FAMILY TREE

In PECULIAR PRIMATES we learn that primates are distant relatives to people. In fact, we're primates ourselves! Think about your own relatives. Use the boxes below to draw members of your family tree. Then, write what you love most about your family on the lines below.



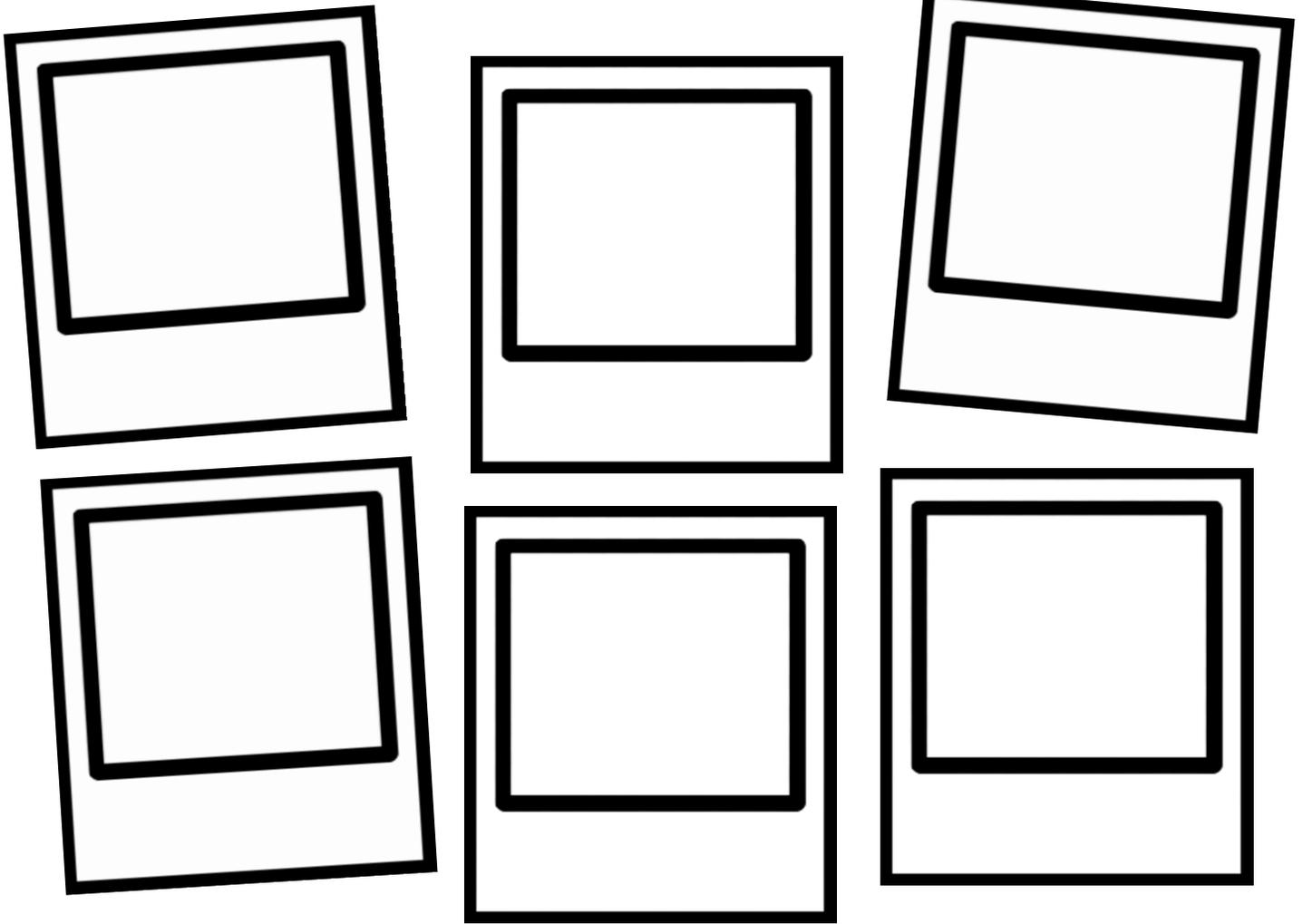


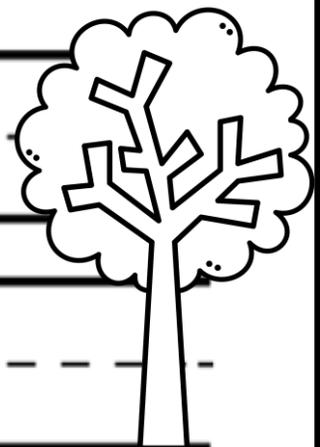
Name: _____

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the sunny side*

FAMILY TREE

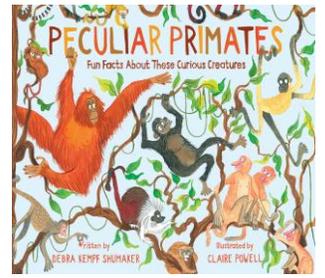
In PECULIAR PRIMATES we learn that primates are distant relatives to people. In fact, we're primates ourselves! Think about your own relatives. Use the boxes below to draw members of your family tree. Then, write what you love most about your family on the lines below.





WRITING ACTIVITY

PRIMATE RESEARCH

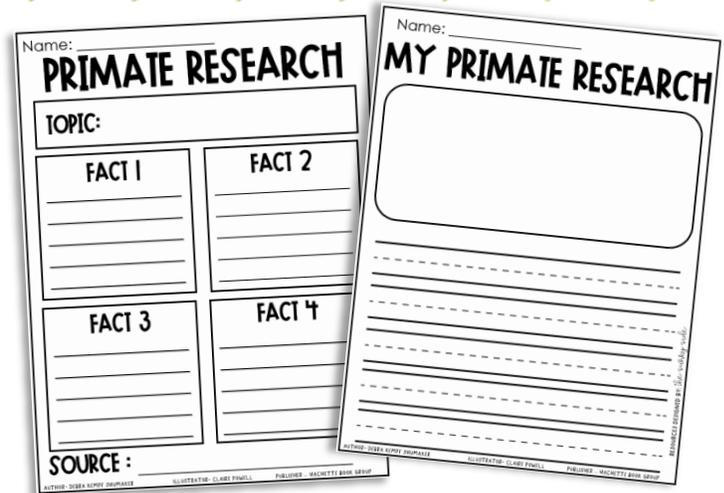


Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.1.2
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.2.2
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.3.2
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.5.2

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Research tools (like Chromebooks, I-pads, or non-fiction books about primates)



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide which PRIMATE RESEARCH graphic organizers and writing paper works best for your students and copy on white paper.
2. Discuss with students a list of different primate species from the story and record on the white-board.
3. Distribute the fact graphic organizers and writing paper to students.
4. Encourage students to research one of the primate species discussed in the story (having access to technology like Chromebooks or I-pads works best).
5. Students should record the facts they learn about the primate they're researching.
6. Finally, have students write an informational paragraph on the writing paper by copying the facts and adding an introduction and conclusion sentence.
7. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this as a shared research project, where students copy your research.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Name: _____

PRIMATE RESEARCH

TOPIC:

FACT 1

FACT 2

FACT 3

FACT 4

SOURCE :

Name: _____

PRIMATE RESEARCH

TOPIC: _____

FACT 1

FACT 2

FACT 3

FACT 4

SOURCE : _____

Name: _____

PRIMATE RESEARCH

TOPIC:

FACT 1

FACT 2

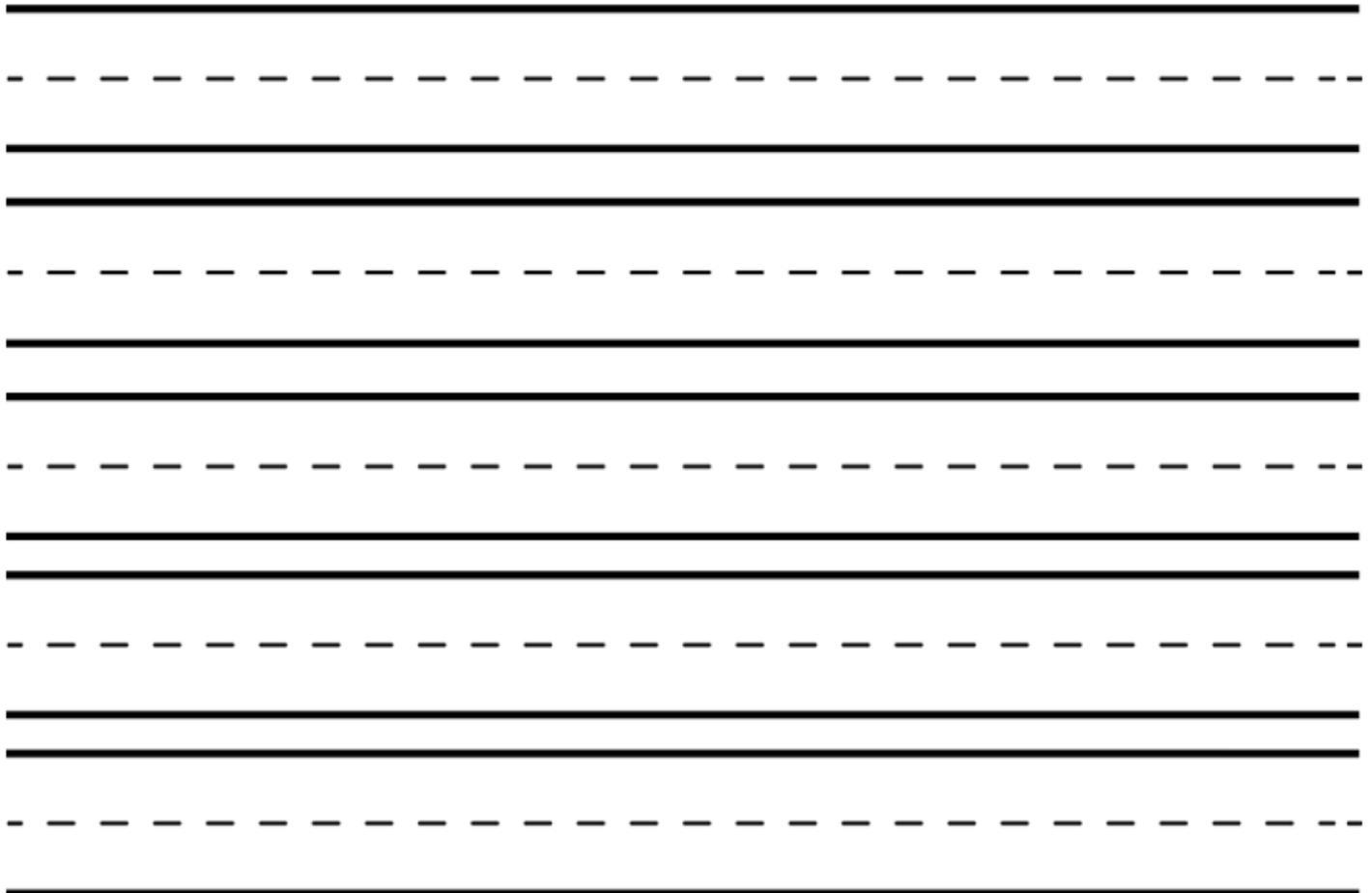
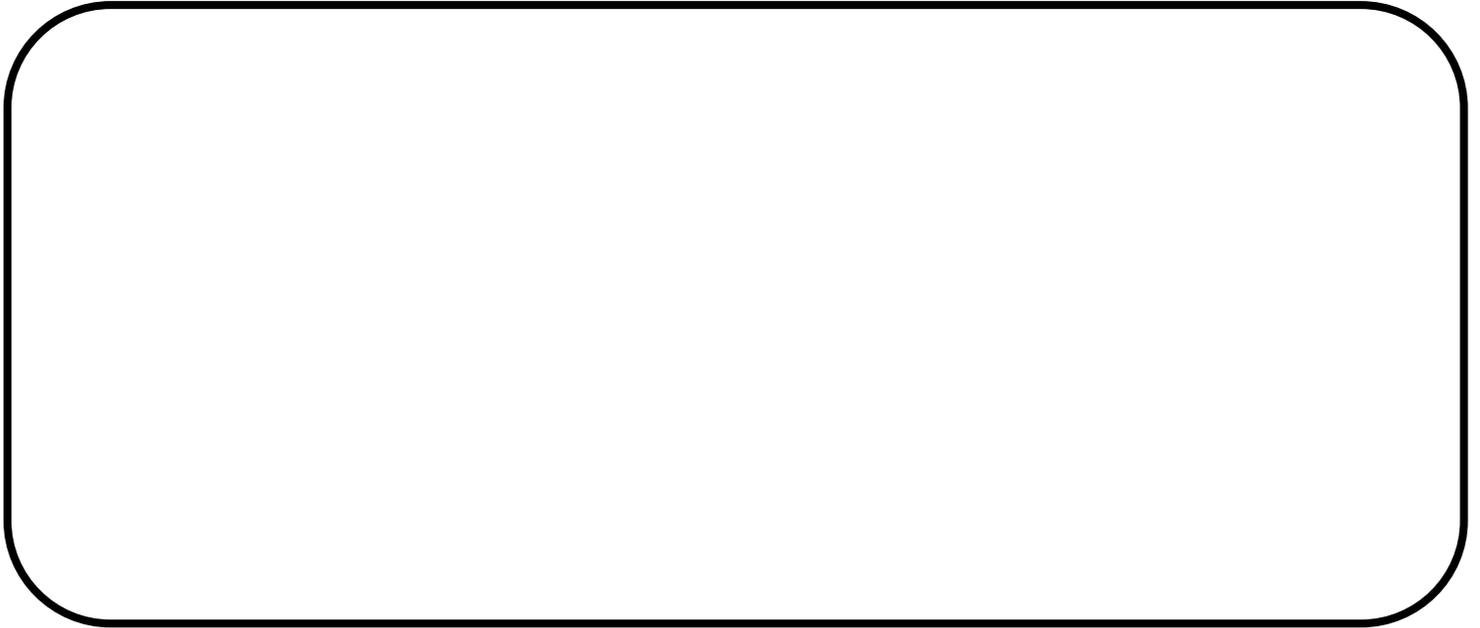
FACT 3

FACT 4

SOURCE :

Name: _____

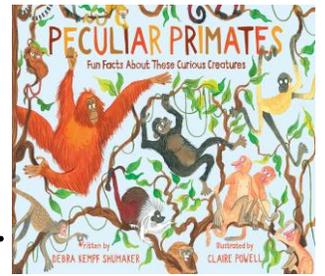
MY PRIMATE RESEARCH



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

STEAM ACTIVITY

DESIGN A PRIMATE HOME



Standards:

- 3-5-ETS1-1.
- 3-5-ETS1-2.
- 3-5-ETS1-3.

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers
- Access to colored printer
- For each group: Pipe cleaners (leaf colored), popsicle sticks, playdough, & colored copies of the primate

Name: _____

DESIGN A PRIMATE HOME STEAM challenge

THE CHALLENGE
Build a home for the primate using the materials given to you. Be sure the home...
• Looks like a tree.
• Supports the weight of the paper primate.
• It is tall enough that your primate does not touch the ground.

REFLECT
How did it go? What worked well? What would you do differently?

THINK
How will you be sure your primate will sit in the tree without falling?



Step by step to do list:

1. Decide student groups prior to this activity (groups of no more than 4 students generally work best).
2. Copy the DESIGN A PRIMATE HOME activity page on white copy paper.
3. Print the primates in color and gather the rest of the supplies (listed above).
4. Explain that the goal today is to design and build a tree that allows a primate to rest comfortably without touching the ground.
5. Distribute the STEAM page to students and allow them to work through the questions in their small group.
6. Give each group the materials they need and allow time to create.
7. Reflect on the STEAM experiment and allow students an opportunity to share with other groups.
8. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Name: _____

STEAM

challenge

DESIGN A PRIMATE HOME

THE CHALLENGE

Build a home for the primate using the materials given to you. Be sure the home...

- Looks like a tree
- Supports the weight of the paper primate
- Is tall enough that your primate does not touch the ground

BRAINSTORM

What materials will you use and in what way will you use them?

PLAN

Draw and / or describe your plan...

THINK

How will you be sure your primate will sit in the tree without falling?

REFLECT

How did it go? What worked well? What would you do differently?

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: The subway table

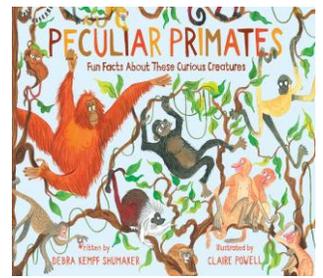
STEAM PRINTABLES



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

SCIENCE ACTIVITY

PRIMATE SORT



Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.1
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.1

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Glue sticks



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the PRIMATE SORT on white copy paper.
2. Discuss with students what makes a primate. ("All primates climb and breathe in air. They have big brains and hands and hair.")
3. Have students cut the pictures apart at the bottom of the sort.
4. Then, they should decide whether the animal pictured is a primate or not (NOTE: While a sloth resembles a primate, it is not. Sloth brains are smaller than primate brains and they have claws instead of fingernails. Sloths live in tropical forests and are related to armadillos and anteaters.)
5. Students will use a glue stick to glue each picture on the correct side of the t-chart.
6. Go over each animal as a class and discuss as students check their thinking.
7. ANSWERS: **Primates** – gorilla, monkey, lemur, and child & **Non-Primates** – macaw, ocelot, chameleon, and sloth.
8. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

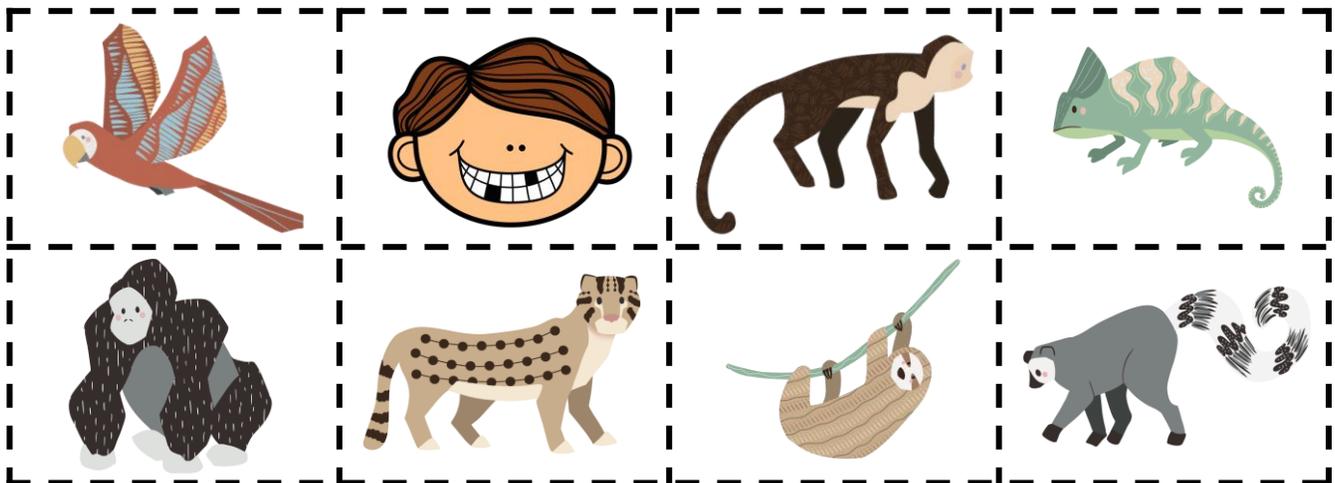
RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Name: _____

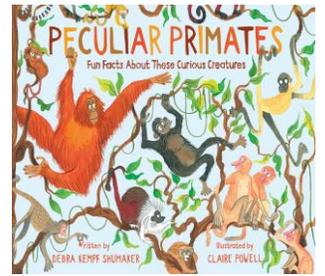
PRIMATE SORT

Cut apart the images below. Decide whether the animal is a primate or non-primate.
Then, glue it in the correct column.

PRIMATE	NON-PRIMATE



ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY



NON-FICTION RESPONSE



Standards:

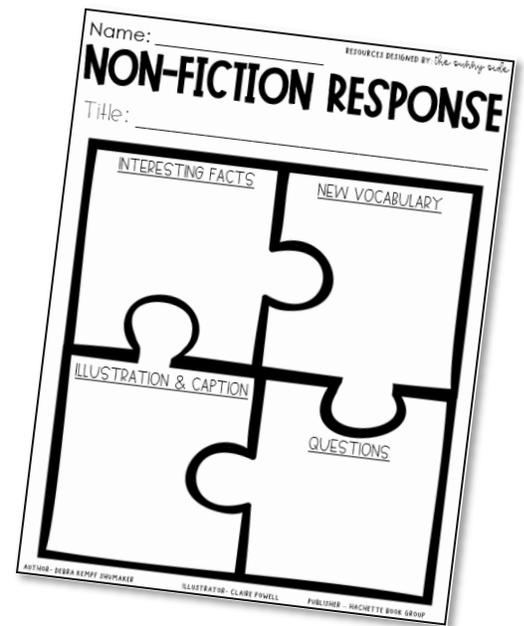
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers

Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the NON-FICTION RESPONSE pages on white copy paper.
2. As a class discuss how the aspects of non-fiction text listed on the puzzle piece response help you better understand what you read (*i.e. Illustrations and captions help you better visualize what you're reading about, asking questions before, during, and after reading help you learn more about a given topic, learning new vocabulary helps bring concepts from a story together, and reflecting on new facts helps you realize what new knowledge you've gained*).
3. Students should use the pages of the book to help them complete the puzzle pieces shown on the worksheet.
4. Allow students an opportunity to share with other students in class.
5. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

Name: _____

NON-FICTION RESPONSE

Title: _____

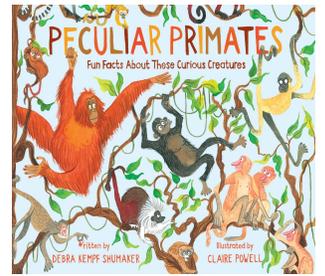
INTERESTING FACTS

NEW VOCABULARY

ILLUSTRATION & CAPTION

QUESTIONS

ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS ACTIVITY



COMPARE & CONTRAST

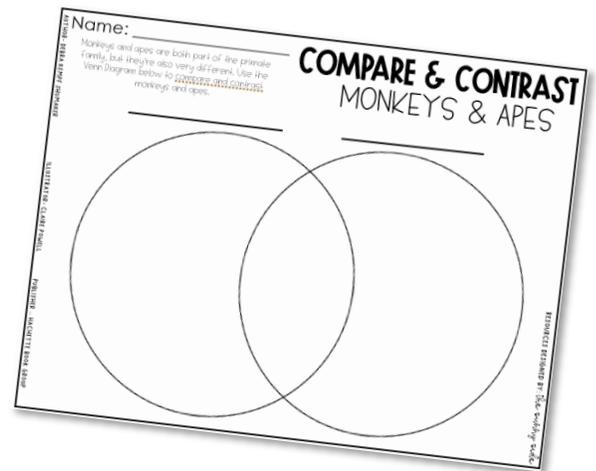


Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.K.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.1.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.2

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Access to printer (color / black and white)
- (Optional) Access to technology



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the COMPARE AND CONTRAST page on white copy paper.
2. Discuss ways that monkeys and apes are similar and different (see list below).
 - SIMILARITIES: Both are primates, both are part of the human evolutionary family tree, both use sounds and gestures, and most monkeys and apes can swing, run, or climb in trees.
 - DIFFERENCES: Almost all monkeys have tails while apes do not, monkeys are generally smaller and narrow chested while apes are larger and have broad chests, apes are generally more intelligent than monkeys.
3. Students should write ways that monkeys and apes are similar in the middle circle and ways that monkeys and apes are different in the outer circles.
4. Take it a step further by inviting students to research similarities and differences between monkeys and apes (having access to technology like Chromebooks or I-pads works best).
5. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

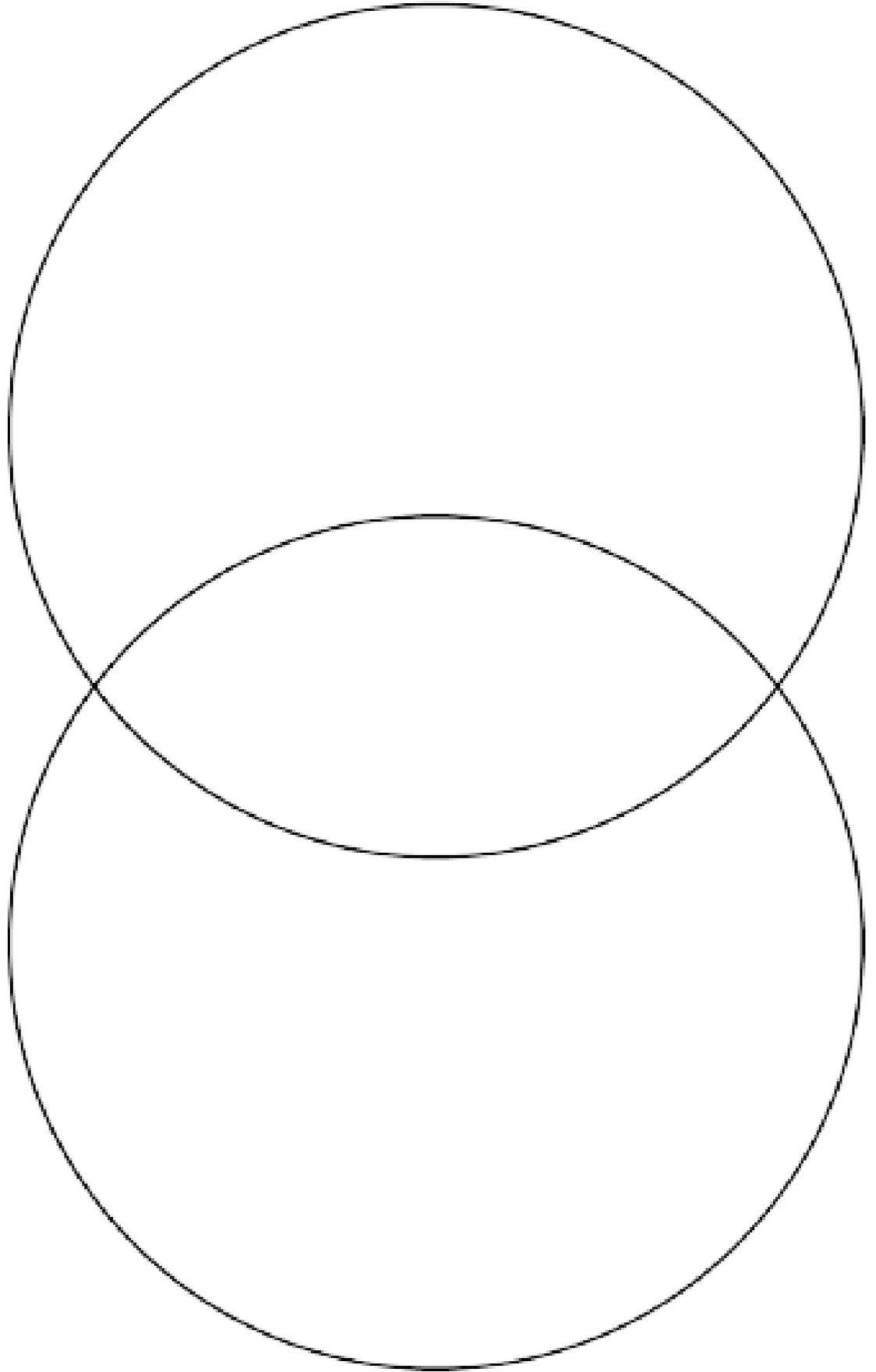
Works Cited: <https://www.britannica.com/story/whats-the-difference-between-monkeys-and-apes>

COMPARE & CONTRAST

MONKEYS & APES

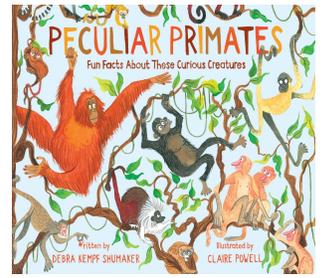
Name: _____

Monkeys and apes are both part of the primate family, but they're also very different. Use the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast monkeys and apes.



ART ACTIVITY

PRIMATE PROJECT



Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.K.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.1.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.2.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.4.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.5.5

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Colored construction paper (assorted colors)

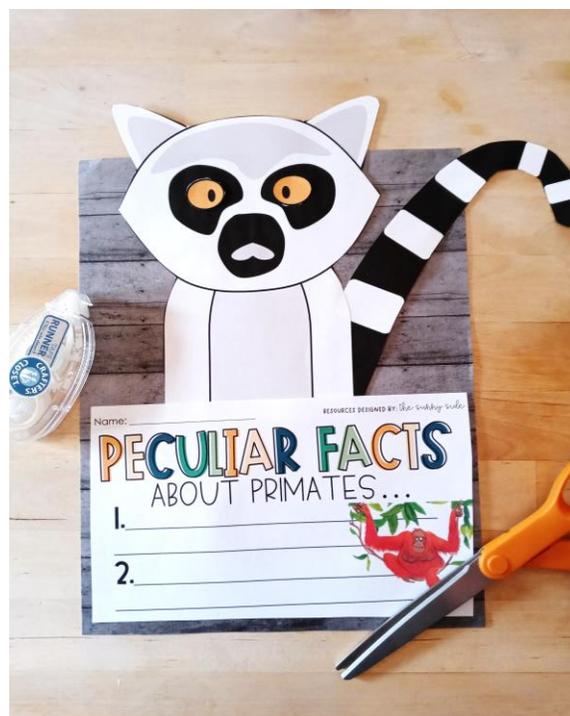
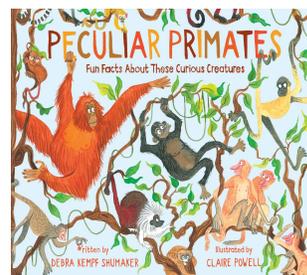


Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the PRIMATE PROJECT templates on coordinating construction paper or on white copy paper for students to color.
2. Show students the picture samples.
3. Have students cut out the templates and glue the pieces together to create a primate of their choice.
4. Assemble and glue the templates according to the pictures.
5. Then, have students reflect and write about the peculiar facts they learned about primates after reading. Encourage them to choose 2 new facts to write on the lines.
6. Students should glue primate at the top of a piece of cardstock or scrapbook paper and glue the written prompt to the bottom.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

PRIMATE ART

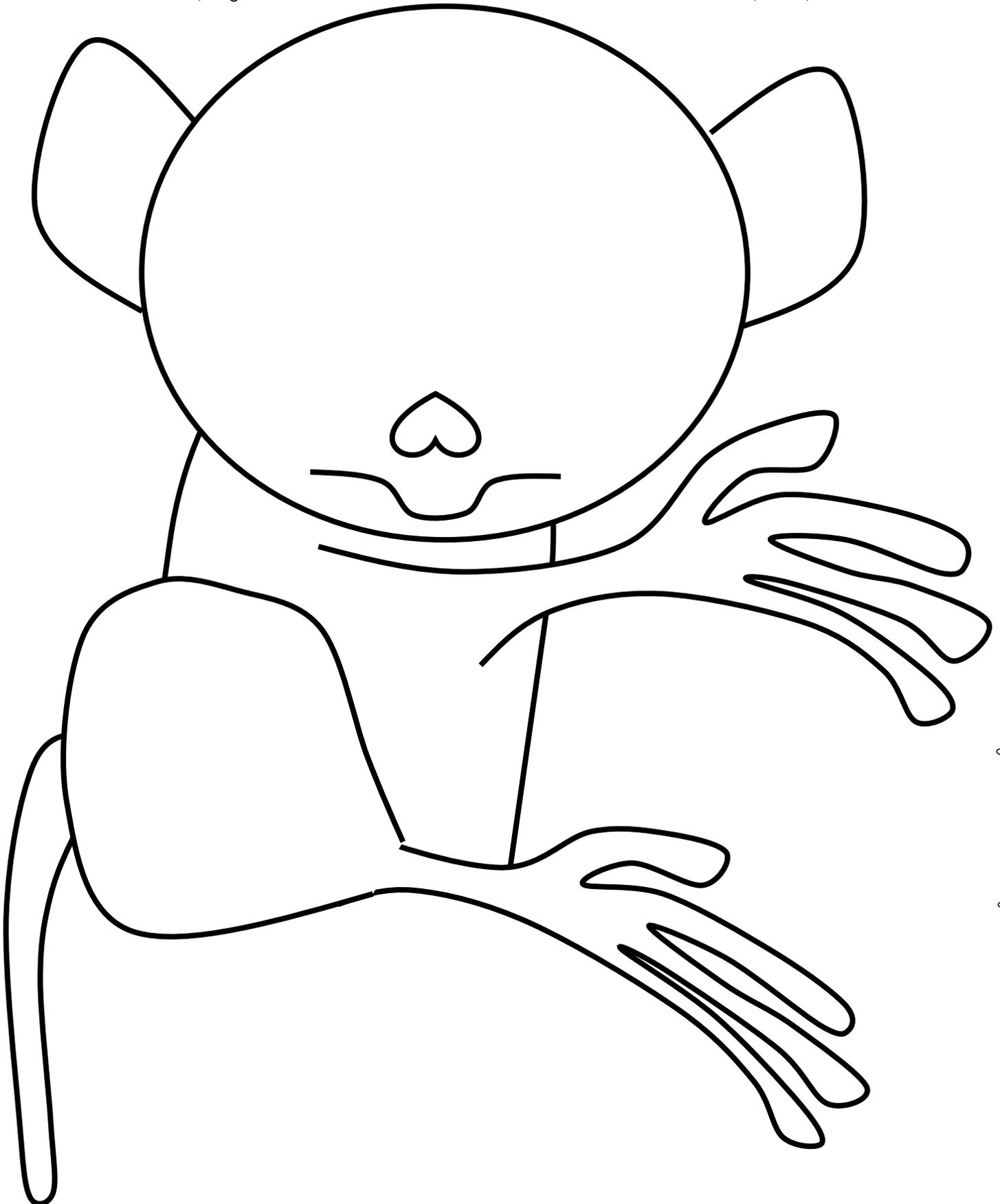


Copy primate templates on colored construction paper or white paper for students to color.

RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: the subway side

TARSIER TEMPLATES

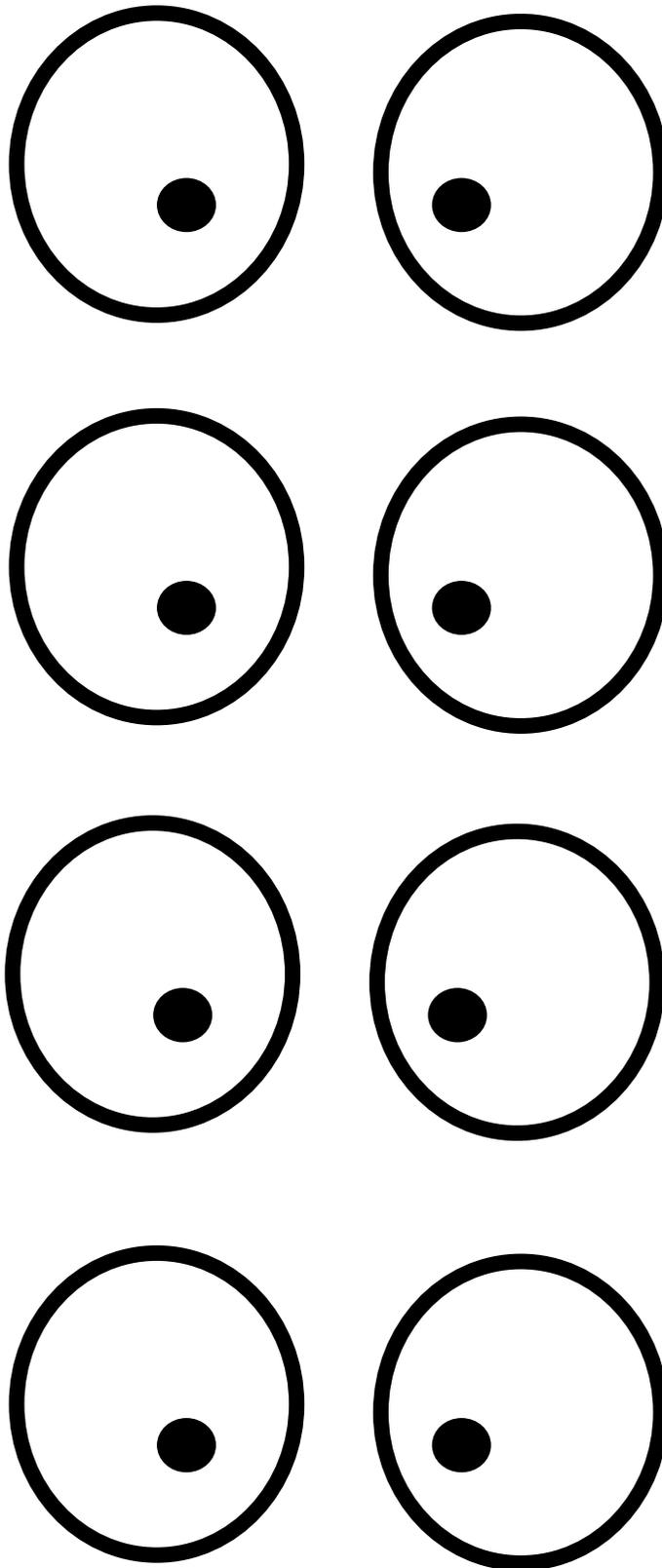
Copy on brown construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

TARSIER TEMPLATES

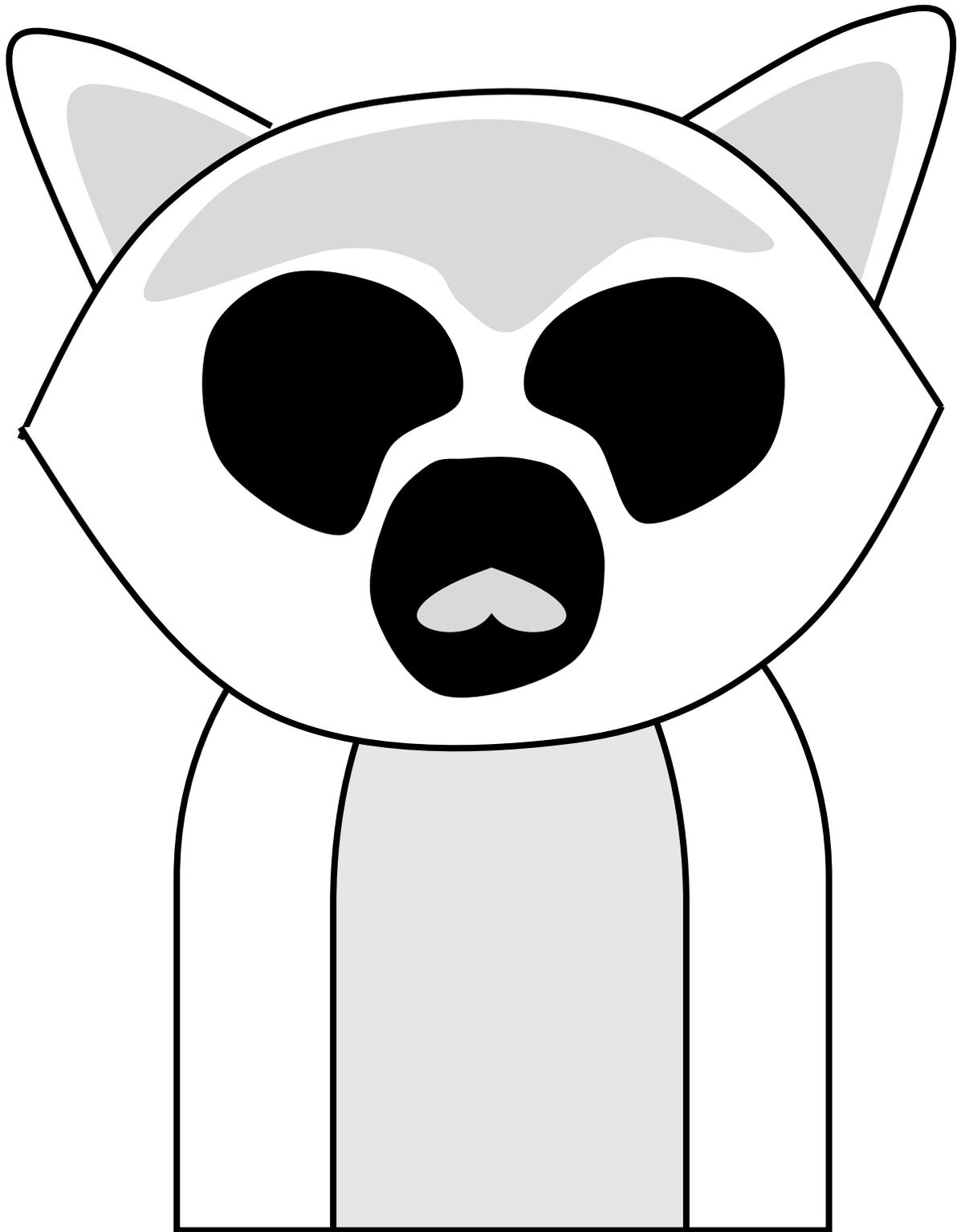
Copy on yellow construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

LEMUR TEMPLATES

Copy on white construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

LEMUR TEMPLATES

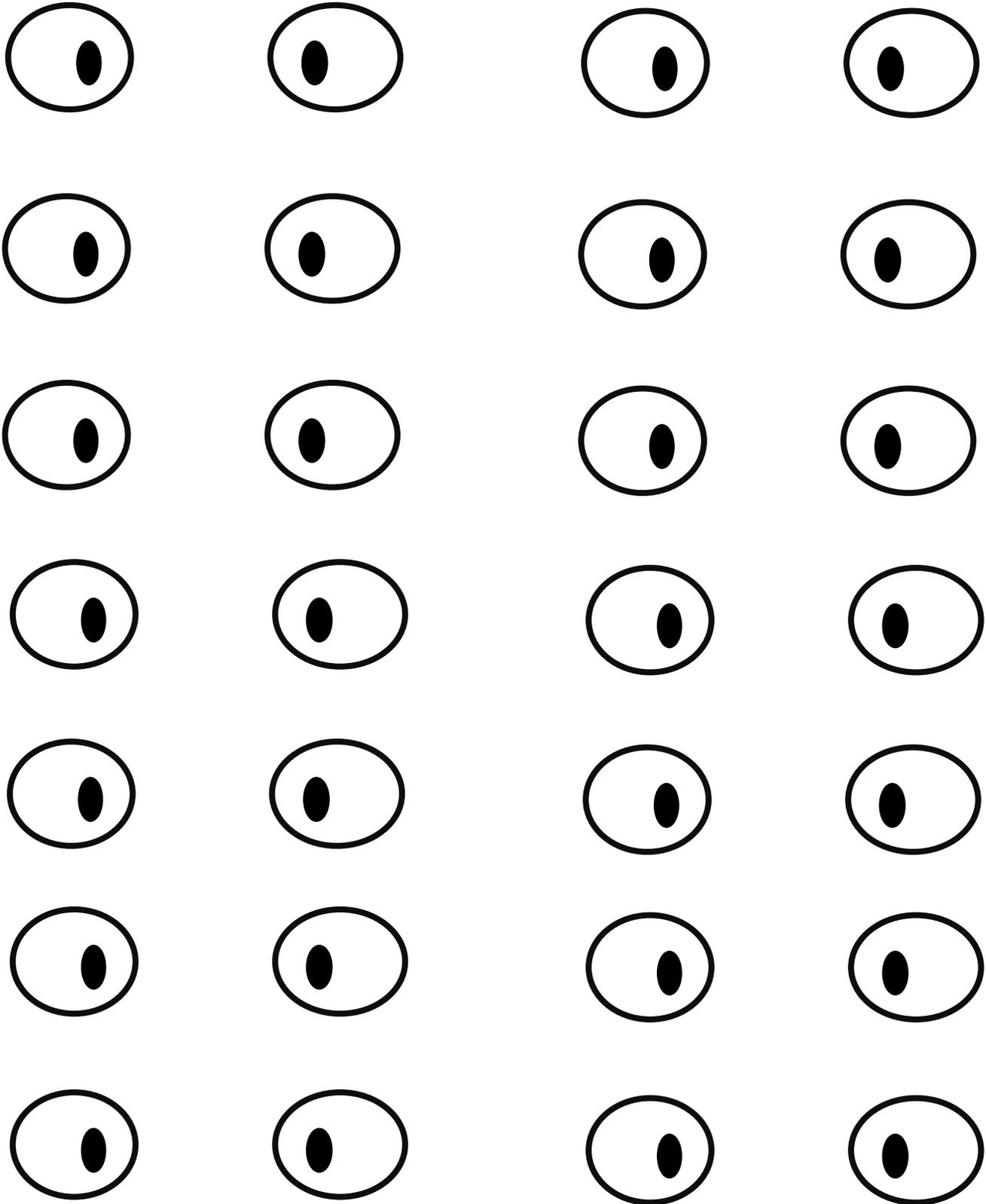
Copy on white construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

LEMUR TEMPLATES

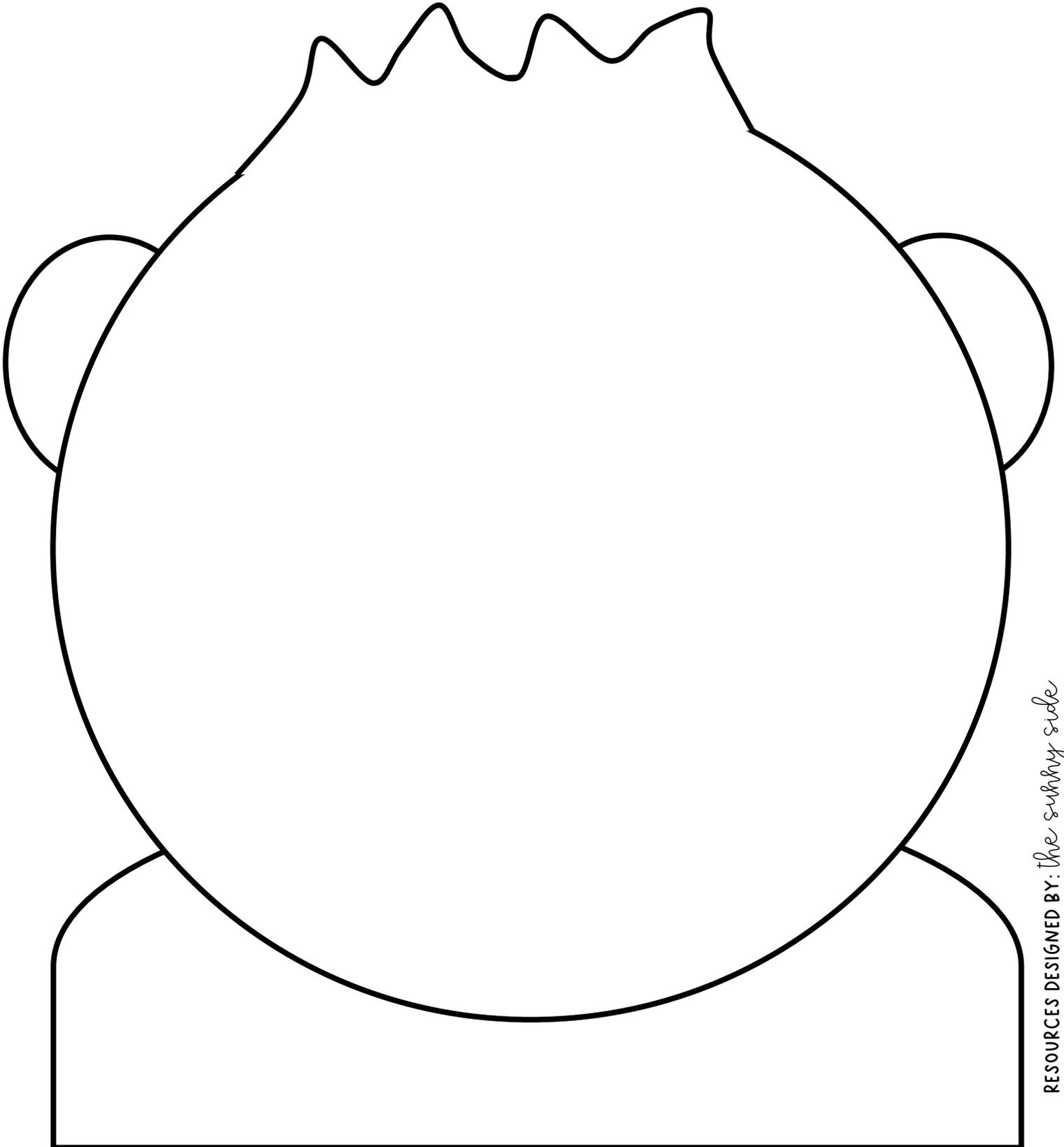
Copy on yellow construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

GORILLA TEMPLATES

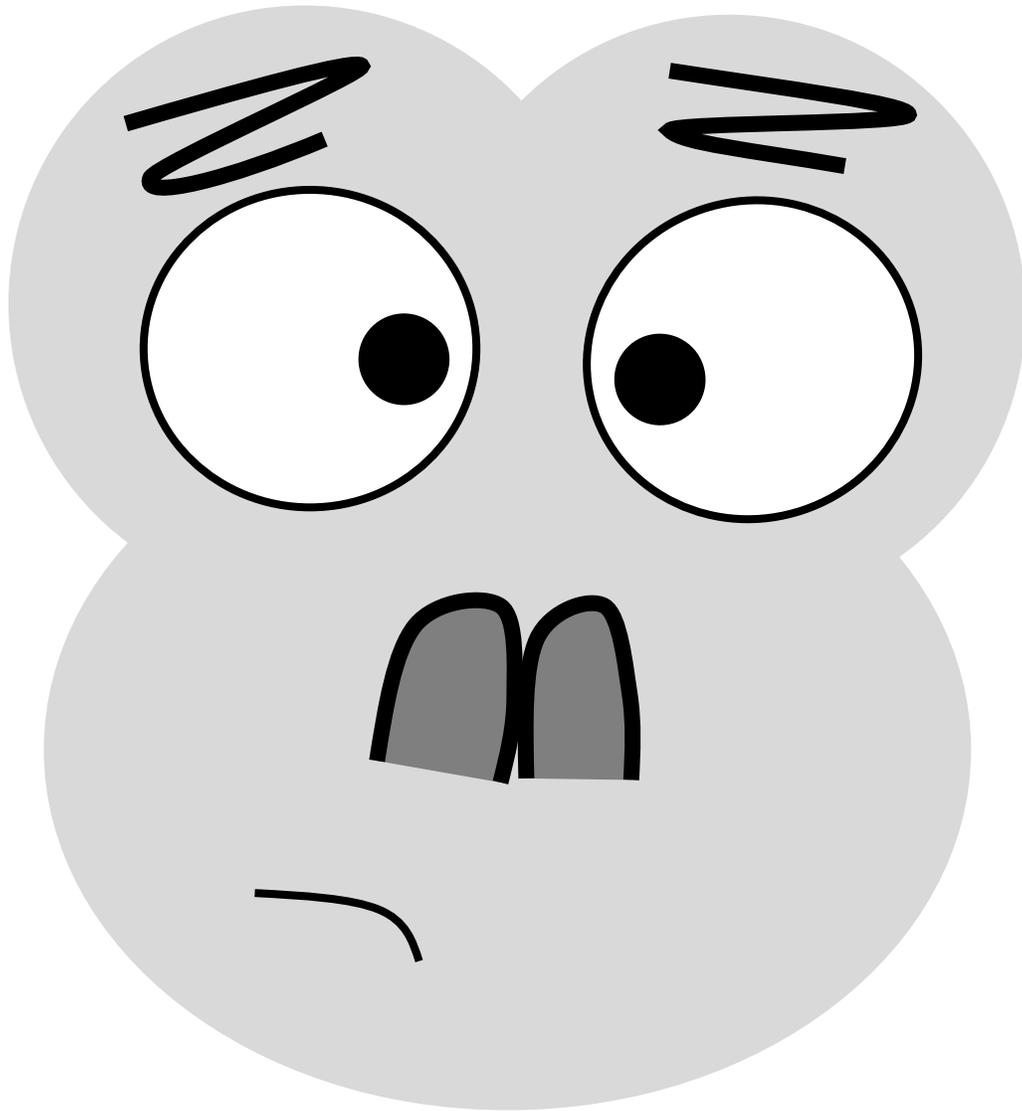
Copy on black construction paper.



RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

GORILLA TEMPLATES

Copy on white construction paper.



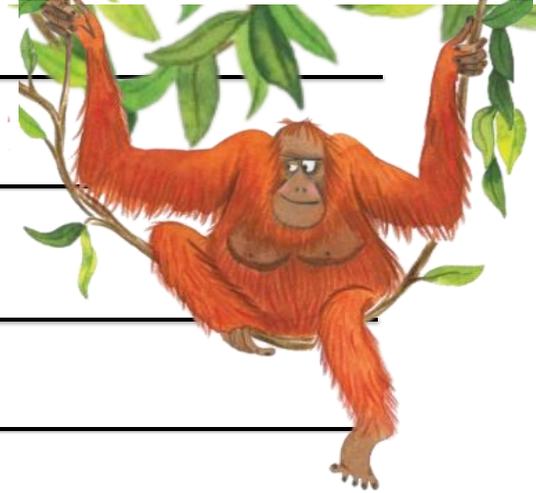
RESOURCES DESIGNED BY: *the subway side*

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES ...

1. _____



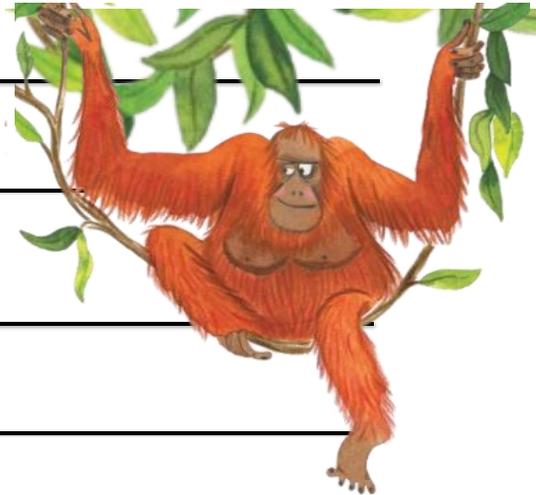
2. _____

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES ...

1. _____



2. _____

Name: _____

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PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES...

1. _____

2. _____

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES...

1. _____

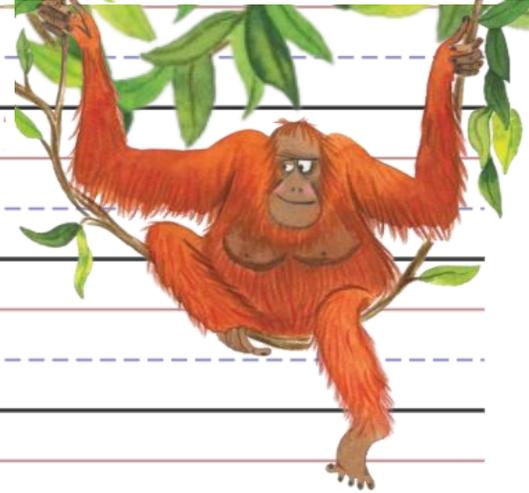
2. _____

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES ...

1.



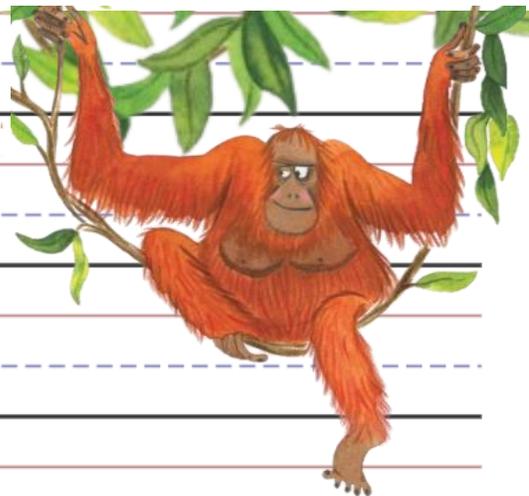
2.

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES ...

1.



2.

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

ABOUT PRIMATES...

1.

2.

Name: _____

PECULIAR FACTS

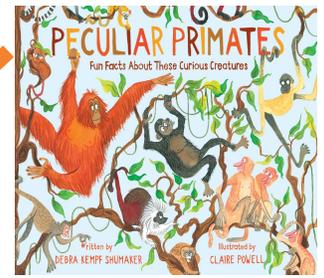
ABOUT PRIMATES...

1.

2.

SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY

MAPPING PRIMATES

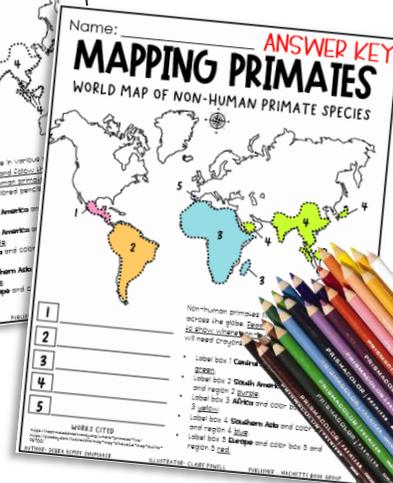
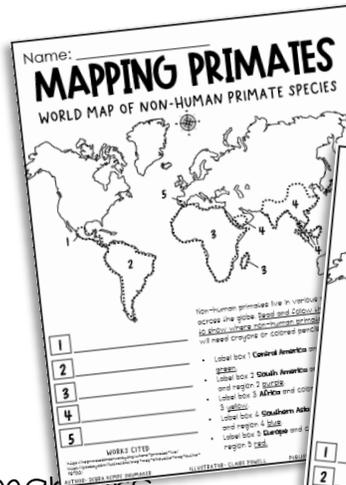


Standards:

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.3.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4.7
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.7

You will need:

- White copy paper
- Pencils
- Crayons / colored pencils / markers



Step by step to do list:

1. Copy the MAPPING PRIMATES activity on white copy paper.
2. Distribute maps to students.
3. Students will label the map key as stated and color each region of the map a specific color to show the different areas where primates live world-wide.
4. Students can share and compare their thinking in partnerships or in small groups.
5. For younger students (1st grade and younger) you may want to complete this activity as a whole group together.

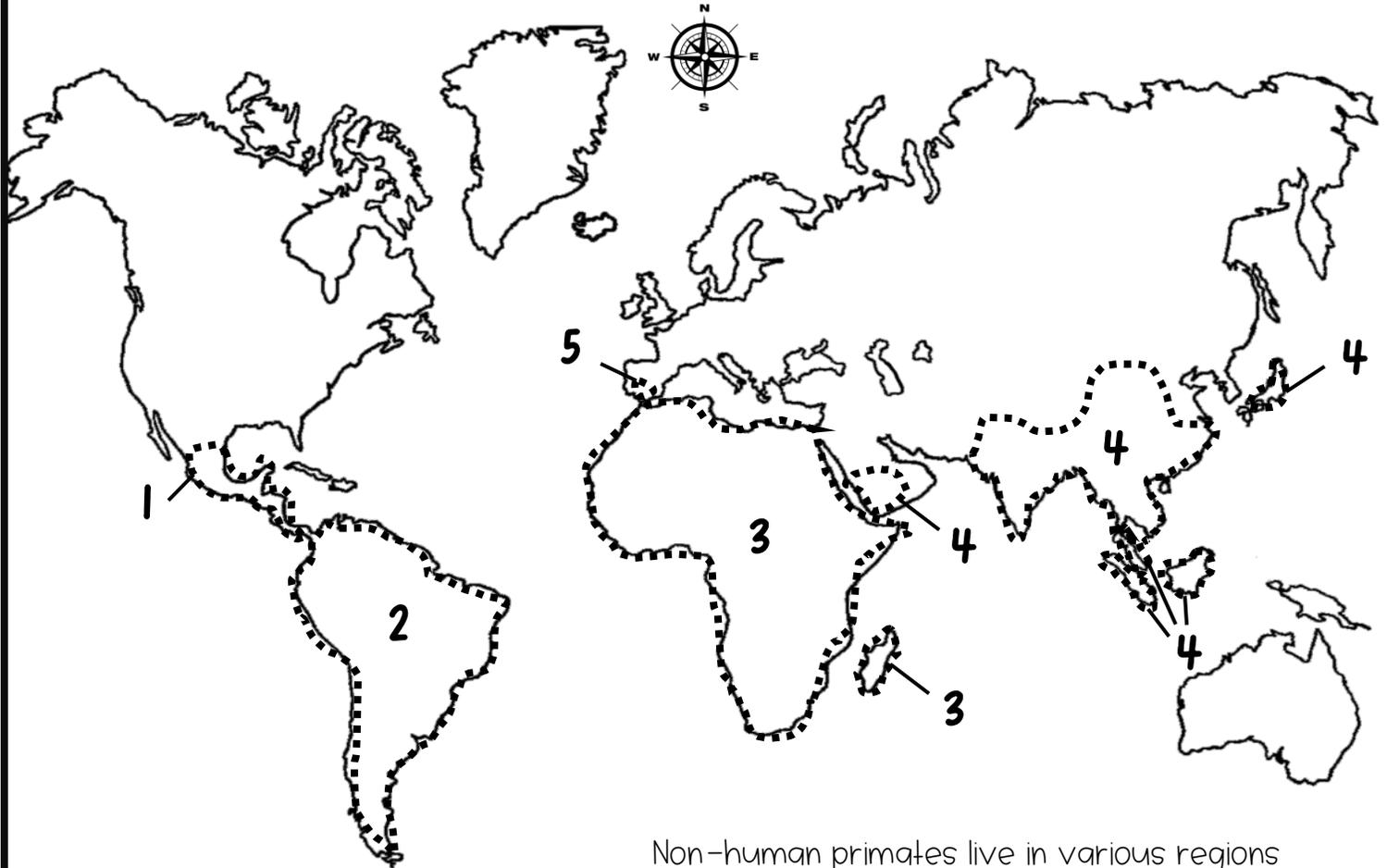
For other educational activities and lesson ideas please visit:
<https://neprimateconservancy.org/where-primates-live/>

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MAPPING PRIMATES

WORLD MAP OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATE SPECIES



1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____

Non-human primates live in various regions across the globe. Read and follow the list below to show where non-human primates live. You will need crayons or colored pencils.

- Label box 1 Central America and color region 1 pink.
- Label box 2 South America and color box 2 and region 2 orange.
- Label box 3 Africa and color box 3 and region 3 blue.
- Label box 4 Southern Asia and color box 4 and region 4 green.
- Label box 5 Europe and color box 5 and region 5 purple.

WORKS CITED

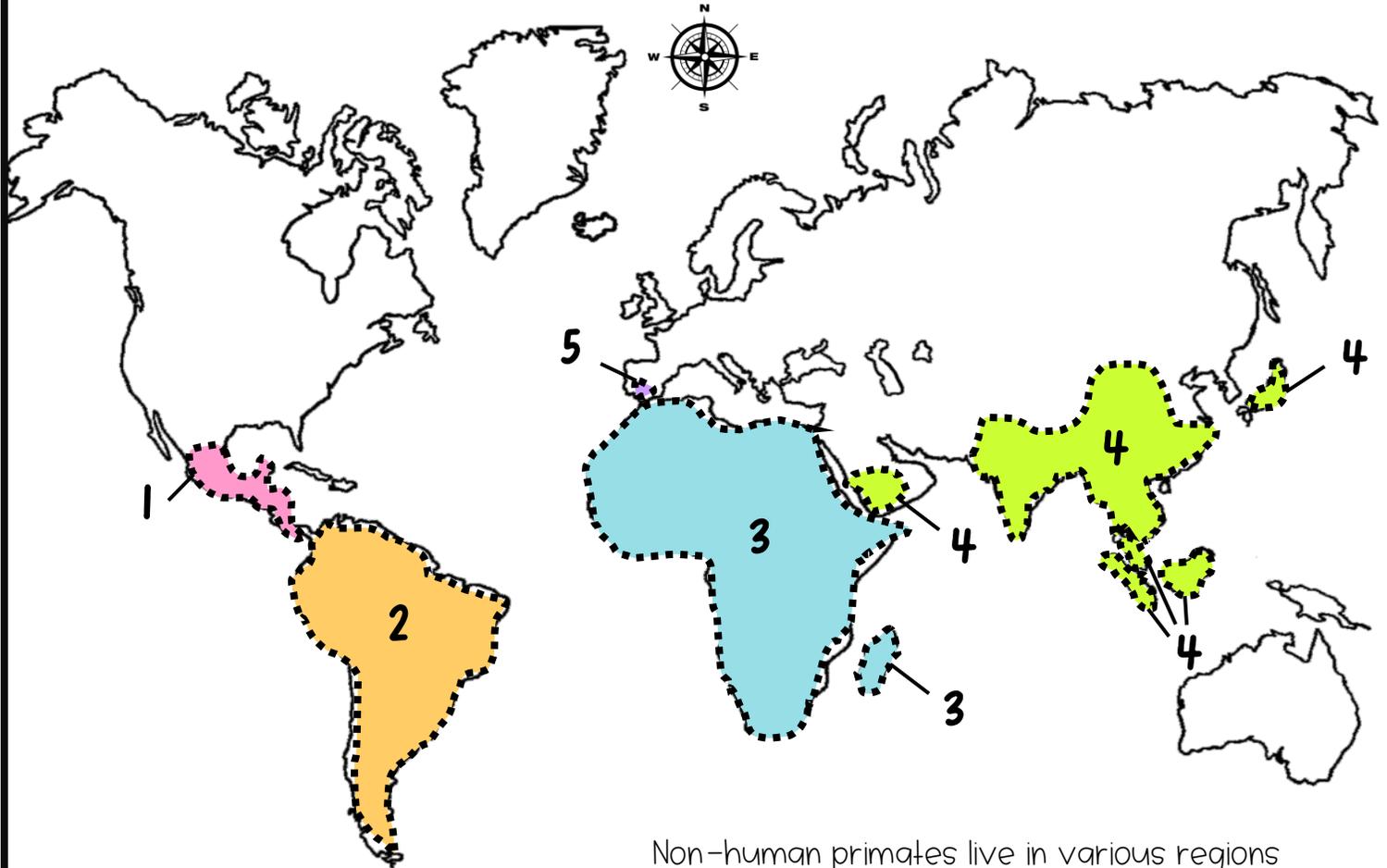
<https://neprimateconservancy.org/where-primates-live/>
<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/map-map-silhouette-map-outline-961700/>

Name: _____

ANSWER KEY

MAPPING PRIMATES

WORLD MAP OF NON-HUMAN PRIMATE SPECIES



- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Non-human primates live in various regions across the globe. Read and follow the list below to show where non-human primates live. You will need crayons or colored pencils.

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<https://pixabay.com/illustrations/map-map-silhouette-map-outline-961700/>

CREDITS PAGE

The author – Debra Kempf Shumaker

Debra Kempf Shumaker loves weird and fascinating facts. When she isn't reading or writing, Debra enjoys watching Jeopardy or hanging outside with her favorite primates—her husband and three sons. She writes from her home in Northern Virginia.



 CREDIT: YANKA PHOTOGRAPHY

CONNECT WITH DEBRA



The illustrator – Claire Powell

Claire Powell is a bestselling children's book illustrator working in London, UK. She started out designing for big-hitting television brands before an impromptu visit to a children's book exhibition led her down the path of illustration. A hugely versatile artist, Claire has a talent for creating characters that are brimming with emotion and personality.

CONNECT WITH CLAIRE



[New England Primate Conservancy](#) is an animal protection and wildlife conservation organization that makes its greatest impact through education. It is driven by a commitment to leave a legacy of hope and tools to build a better tomorrow for all the Earth's citizens. For additional lessons and activities, check out their website [HERE](#).



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PRIMATE
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