

Observing Monkeys

Many kinds of monkeys spend a great deal of their lives in trees. Because they are in the trees so much, they need adaptations that enable them to move through the trees easily. These adaptations include:

- hands and feet designed for grasping
- tails used for balancing and grasping
- forward-facing eyes to help judge distances correctly

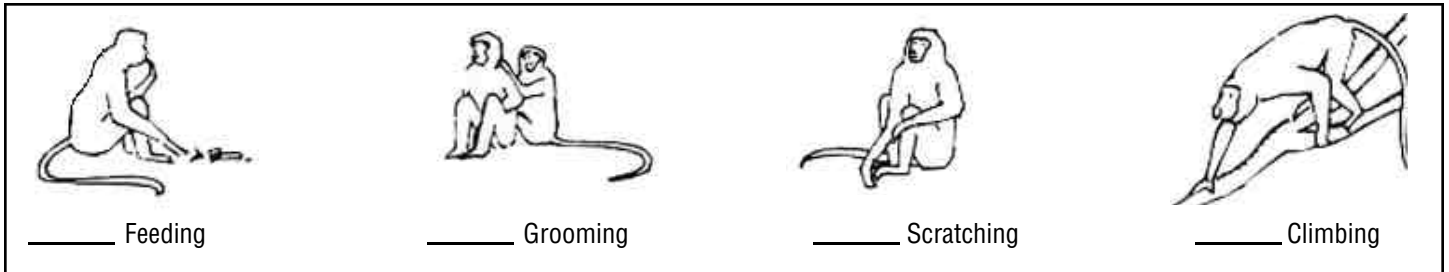
Print this sheet, take it to the zoo with you, and try to do the activities below.

1. Choose one of the monkeys in the exhibit and observe it closely. Observe the monkey's hand. A grasping hand enables the monkey to climb trees, groom its fur, and reach for food. What special finger on the monkey's hand enables it to pick up things?



Draw an arrow to this important finger.

2. Observe one monkey for 5 minutes. Especially watch the monkey's hands. Keep score how many times it does each activity below.



3. When the monkey moves around the exhibit does it:

- use its arms and legs?
- use its legs only?
- use its arms only?

4. Monkeys have eyes that are positioned close to each other on the front of the face. This helps them to judge distances between branches when they jump through the trees. Draw a picture of the face of the monkey you are observing, making sure the eyes are located in the correct place.