

Learn About Primates



This lesson is inspired by Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) principles. In this lesson, students will learn to identify unique traits of chimpanzees and will be able to identify ways in which humans and chimpanzees are similar.

What is a primate?

- A primate is a type of mammal.
- There are more 600 types of primates!
- Primates are social, which means they like to live in groups with other primates.
- Primates can use tools like sticks and stones.
- Most primates are omnivorous, which means they eat plants and other animals.
- Primates have hair like humans instead of fur like a dog or cat.

What is a Great Ape?

- A Great Ape is a type of primate.
- There are five types of Great Apes:
 - Chimpanzees
 - Gorillas
 - Orangutans
 - Bonobos
 - Humans
- All Great Apes have thumbs that can bend to meet other fingers. Opposable thumbs help Great Apes climb trees, gather food, and use tools.



Gorilla

Orangutan

Chimpanzee



@ChimpHaven



What is the difference between a Great Ape and a monkey?

- Apes have bigger bodies than monkeys.
- Monkeys have tails and apes do not.
- Apes have short noses while monkeys have snout-like noses.
- Apes have bigger brains than monkeys.
- Apes are built for swinging through trees while most monkeys are built for running across branches.
- Apes use tools and monkeys do not.



What is a chimpanzee?

- A chimpanzee is a type of Great Ape.
- Chimpanzees are humans' closest living relative! They share more than 98% of their genes with you and me.
- Chimp Haven treats each chimpanzee as an individual! Chimpanzees have likes, dislikes and big personalities just like you and me.
- Chimpanzees in the wild live in Africa.
- Chimpanzees have longer arms than legs so they walk on all four limbs. That's called knuckle-walking.
- Chimpanzees use tools like sticks to fish for ants and stones to crack open nuts.
- Chimpanzees make noises and use their bodies to show what they are feeling. What are some of the ways that you show how you are feeling?
- One sound they make a lot is called a "pant-hoot." Pant-hoots are used to communicate many different things, but it normally means the chimp is excited about something. Each chimpanzee's pant-hoot is unique.
- Chimpanzees laugh when they play.
- Chimpanzees communicate like me and you. Hugging, patting on the back, and tickling to name a few! What are some of the ways that you communicate?
- Chimpanzees usually sleep at night and are awake during the day, but like us they wake up at night sometimes, and even take naps during the day.

What is Chimp Haven?

- Chimp Haven is a big sanctuary where chimpanzees live together in family groups, also known as troops.
- Chimp Haven is located in Louisiana.
- More than 300 chimpanzees live at Chimp Haven today!



@ChimpHaven



DIY Tool Building

Something that sets primates apart from other mammals is tool use! Great Apes are special because they have thumbs that can bend to touch other fingers for grasping objects and making the best use of their tool. Think about how you use tools. Can you imagine picking up a fork, writing your letters or zipping your coat without your thumbs? While Great Apes like chimpanzees look for tools in their habitats like stones and sticks, humans create all kinds of tools to get the job done! Create your own tweezer tool by following these steps.

Suggested Materials

Craft or Popsicle Sticks

Rubber Bands

Cotton Ball or other type Pom-Pom ball

Step 1

Gather your materials!

Step 2

Stack two sticks together.

Step 3

Place the cotton ball between the two sticks at one end.

Step 4

Add two or more rubber bands to the end where the cotton ball is.

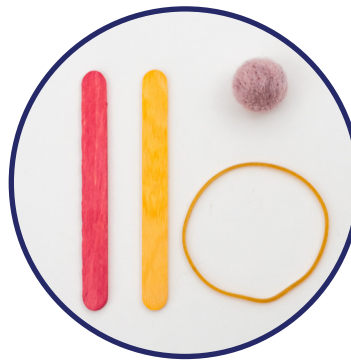
Step 5

Put your tool to use! See what you can pick up with your tool. The bigger the cotton ball the wider the open end will be.

Step 6

Write down 5 things that you picked up using your tool!

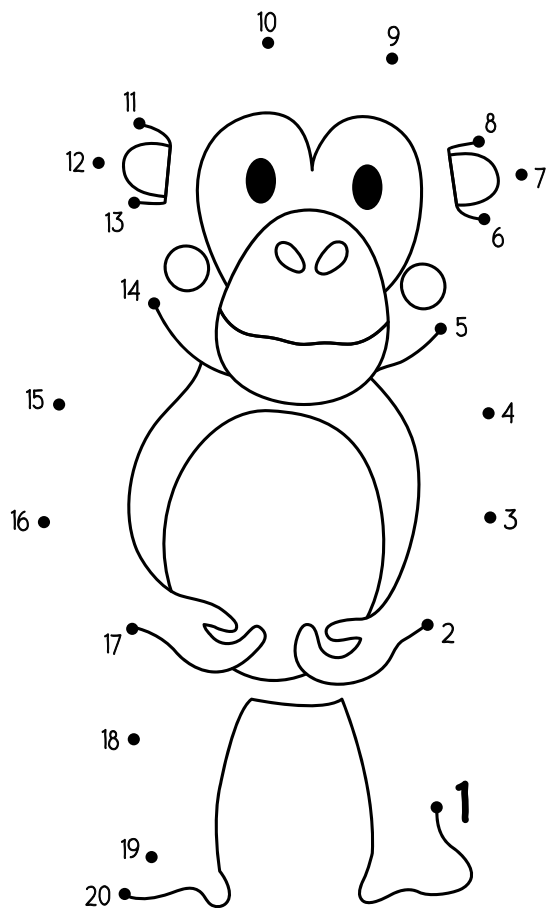
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



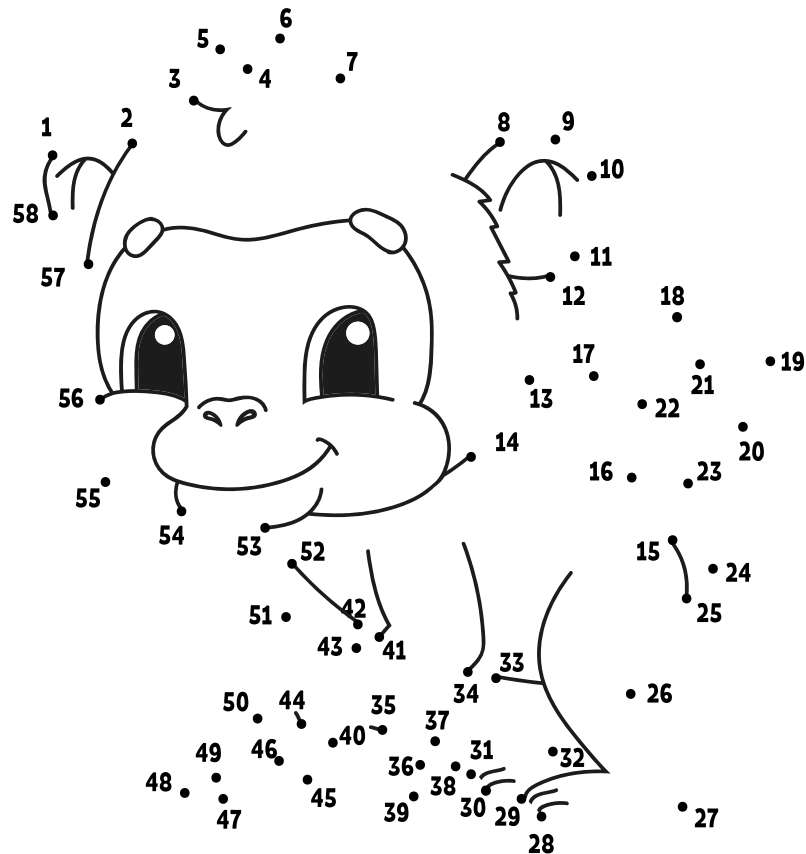
@ChimpHaven



Which is a monkey and which is a chimpanzee? Connect the dots to find out!



I am a _____



I am a _____



Share your picture with us @ChimpHaven on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

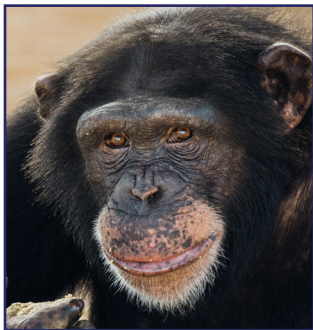
At Chimp Haven, we believe we're not that different, humans and chimpanzees. As our closest living relatives, chimps share more than 98 percent of our genetic blueprint, and it doesn't take long to see that they have all the personalities, emotions, relationships, dramas and joys that we do!

Meet some of the unique chimps at the sanctuary! Think about what makes each an individual and how you may relate to some of their traits.



Marie

Sweet Marie is a loyal friend to the end – her caring nature has been known to win over chimps with a tough exterior. While she's naturally a bit reserved, if someone is messing with her buddies they better watch out! When she's not showering her besties with affection, Marie enjoys spending quiet time outside.



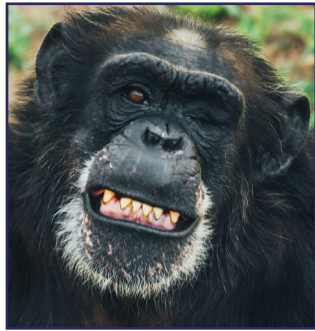
Riley

Riley is a rambunctious youngster who knows just what he wants out of life: To be in charge! But the strong female leaders in his group would tell you he's still got a ways to go. He's always on the lookout for his next prank victim (usually one of his aunties). Don't let his mischievous personality fool you, though — he can be very sweet when he wants to be. Once, when an older member of his group was on the outs with some of his groupmates, Riley made sure to check in with him and bring him food. He just might make a good alpha one day...when he grows up!



Twyla

Twyla is a great friend to everyone in her group – even those chimps who some might find it difficult to get along with. She's especially fond of her buddy, Juan. Her friendships with groupmates have really encouraged Twyla to blossom. Where she used to be timid about exploring new play yards, she's recently decided that if her friends can be brave, so can she. There's nothing like a great group of friends to help build your confidence for adventure!



Crystal

Crystal is a smart girl who loves to exercise with her favorite caregiver, Robyn. Robyn and Crystal meet nearly every day to go on walks around the perimeter of Crystal's play yard. They both look forward to their time spent together. In fact, Crystal loves their exercise sessions so much, she's lost more than 60 pounds since the two of them began their "walking club!"



Hope

Hope has alopecia, which is likely genetic. It does not slow her down at all, but she does receive extra fluids during the summer and ointments during physical exams to keep her feeling good! The first time Hope was introduced to her new pals, it was clear she was going to be Miss Popularity, making friends quickly and putting the whole crew at ease. She's also a bit of a ham and loves fishing for attention from the care staff. On a nice day, you can find Hope sunbathing on her favorite platform, forever "working on her tan."

Now that you've met some of the chimps think of a time when you related to one of their personalities. A situation at school, at home or even an interaction with a friend! Write a few sentences to describe it. Remember that chimps have feelings and needs just like you do! They are all different and they are all special.

Minute to Win It – Primate Edition

Find a friend to test your primate knowledge! Grab a timer and a writing tool then write as many facts as possible down in one minute. One fact = one point. The person with the most points wins!

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |
| • _____ _____ | • _____ _____ |



@ChimpHaven



Share your winning facts with us @ChimpHaven on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter!

Key Terms



- **Mammal** (mam·mal) – an animal that breathes air, has a backbone, and has hair or fur
- **Primate** (pri·mate) – a mammal with flexible hands and feet, large brains, and eyes that face to the front
- **Great Ape** – a large primate that uses tools and doesn't have a tail
- **Chimpanzee** (chim·pan·zee) – a Great Ape from Africa that is the closest living relative to humans
- **Primatologist** – a person who studies the science of primates
- **Pant-hoot** – a chimpanzee call or vocalization that expresses excitement
- **Tool** – something that helps you achieve a task
- **Characteristic** (char·ac·ter·is·tic) – a feature that describes a person, place or thing
- **Adaptable** (a·dapt·a·ble) – can adjust to new conditions
- **Unique** – unlike anything else



@ChimpHaven

