



# Primate Trading Cards

### OBJECTIVE

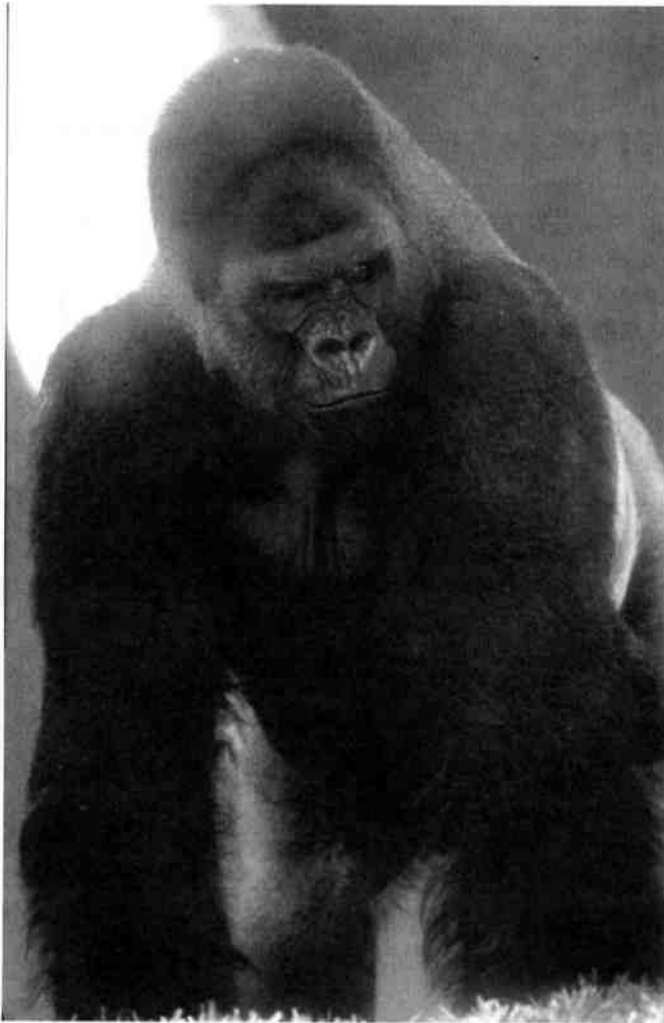
The student will identify basic characteristics of various primates.

### ACTION

1. Explain that the class will be creating trading cards about primates. To choose their primate, students draw one paper out of the bowl prepared earlier. The primate's name that is written on the paper is the student's subject for their trading cards. Explain that there will be several students with the same primate.
2. Explain that the students will create five identical copies of their primate trading card. Each card will have a picture on one side and information on the other (show sample). Student information should include the following characteristics about the primate: range, habitat, diet, size, conservation, status, and one fun fact. Write these characteristics on the board or overhead. Have students copy the words onto a piece of paper, skipping lines between words.
3. Allow several days for the students to conduct their research and find five pictures of their primate. (The pictures need to fit on the 5 x 7 in. index card.)
4. When ready, review student information for accuracy using the facts listed on the Primate Information Cards. (Students with the same primates may work together.)
5. Distribute index cards (5 per student), pencils and glue. Have students place or draw the pictures of their designated primate on the un-lined side of the index cards. Underneath the picture they should write in bold print the name of their primate. On the lined side of the index cards they should clearly print the following words: "range", "habitat", "diet", "size", "conservation", "status", and "one fun fact" and fill in the information they found.
6. Once the primate trading cards have been created, wrap each card in clear laminate. Distribute scissors so students may trim the excess laminate around the edges.
7. Instruct the students to keep one of their cards and trade the rest with other students around the room. Remind the students that they want a complete set of all five primates.

## PRIMATE TRADING CARD LIST

1. Borneo Orangutan  
(*Pongo pygmaeus*)
2. Chimpanzee  
(*Pan troglodytes*)
3. Guinea Baboon  
(*Papio hamadryas papio*)
4. Ring-tailed Lemur  
(*Lemur catta*)
5. Western Lowland Gorilla  
(*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*)



Gorillas make their homes in tropical forests, swamp forests, clearings and along the forest edges within the African countries of Cameroon, Peoples Republic of Congo, Gabon, Central African Re-public, and Equatorial Guinea.

## MATERIALS

### Per student:

- five, 5 x 7 in. index cards with lines on one side
- pencil
- pair of scissors
- glue or tape

### Per class:

- one roll of laminating paper
- sheet(s) of paper cut into strips, one strip per student
- one copy of Primate Information Cards
- one large bowl
- one sample trading card
- images of primates on Trading Card List. Recommended Source: Rowe, Noel. 1996. *The Pictorial Guide to the Living Primates*. East Hampton, New York: Pogonias Press.

### Preparation:

Write the name of each primate (from the Primate Trading Card List at right) on an individual slip of paper. (Repeat as many times as necessary for number of strips to equal number of students.) Fold the papers and place in a large bowl for students to draw from.

Create one trading card as a sample. Use information from the Primate Information Cards.

## Primate Information Card: Bornean orangutan or orang-utan

**Class:** Mammalia **Order:** Primate

**Family:** Pongidae

**Genus species:** *Pongo* (gorilla/orangutan) *pygmaeus* (small, dwarfish) *pygmaeus*

**Size:** head and body length, male, 0.97 m (3.2 ft.); female 0.78 m (2.6 ft.)

**Weight:** males up to 90 kg (198 lb.); females to 50 kg (110 lb.)

**Description:** the only great ape from Asia; formerly two subspecies: Bornean (*P. p. pygmaeus*) has a round face with dark red coat. The Sumatran (*P. p. abelii*) has a long narrow face with paler longer hair. Adult males of both species have large cheek flaps.

**Life span:** up to 50 years

**Habitat:** Primary lowland swamp in Borneo and primary rainforest on Island of Borneo.

**Diet:** 60% fruit and other plant materials including leaves, bark, flowers, and nuts, occasionally insects and small mammals.

**Status:** listed as endangered by USFWS and protected by CITES Appendix I

### Fun Facts

- Unlike other great apes, orangutans are solitary by nature; this may be related to their need for large quantities of fruit, which are dispersed throughout the forest.
- Even though they are able to walk upright for short distances, orangutans travel mostly by brachiating (swinging from one branch to another by the arms) through trees, using well-worn corridors in the forest canopy.
- Orangutans shelter themselves from rain and sun by holding leafy branches over their heads, and when constructing a night nest in the trees, will sometimes add a leafy roof.
- Males have a large throat sac that helps them make "long calls." This travels for up to 1 km (.62 mile) through dense vegetation, which helps the males define territories. The "squeak-kiss" noise they make is a sign of annoyance.
- Bornean orangs have the most prolonged development of any mammal therefore they reproduce very slowly.

### Conservation and Biological Value

Primarily fruit and plant eaters, orangutans play an essential role as seed dispersers throughout the forests of Indonesia as they digest and eliminate waste. They choose select green leaves and shoots, and in doing so act as pruners that aid in regenerating plant growth. The small food patches in Bornean forests, which cannot support more than one orangutan, force them to remain solitary or semi-solitary, and limits their social interactions. Uncontrolled increases in human populations in Southeast Asia have reduced the range and numbers of orangutans. Much of their habitat is either clear cut for agriculture or lumber production.

## Primate Information Card: ring-tailed lemur

**Class:** Mammalia **Order:** Primate

**Family:** Lemuridae

**Genus species:** *Lemur* (ghost, specter) *catta* (cat)

**Size:** tail length 23.6 in.

**Weight:** males may weight 2705 gm (95.4 oz.); females may weight 2678 gm (94.5 oz.)

**Description:** a small primate with a conspicuous black and white banded tail. Males have a fingernail-like spur near each wrist that emit a strong scent for marking territories.

**Life span:** average about 27 years

**Sexual maturity:** reached at 21-30 mo.

**Gestation:** approximately 134-138 days; typically one offspring, two when food is plentiful; mating season is from August through Sept.

**Habitat:** scrub, spiny dessert, dry, and gallery; Madagascar small mammals.

**Status:** listed as endangered by USFWS and protected by CITES Appendix I

### Fun Facts

- Ring-tailed lemurs are the most terrestrial of all lemurs, spending a great deal of time on the ground instead of the trees. Males often have "stink fights" in which they wave their tails (having been rubbed on the strong-smelling wrist gland) at one another.
- When territory or other disputes take place within a society, female lemurs always win.
- Ring-tailed lemurs do not have a stable hierarchy. In fact this species is the only primate in which the infants "grapple" for dominance.
- Males scent mark by rubbing the spur on the male's forearm on the scent gland of the inner arm, then use it to scar branches and leave their scent behind.
- A female lemur carries her newborn in her mouth until the baby is able to cling to the fur on mother's stomach or back.

### Conservation and Biological Value

Ring-tailed lemurs are the only primate in Madagascar to make extensive use of the ground. In addition, they range farther into the interior highlands of Madagascar than any other lemur species. This is an important example of the amazing adaptive radiation of primates exclusive to the island. With the widespread decrease of these primates, Madagascar faces the threat of losing a species, which fills an important ecological role.

Ring-tailed lemurs numbers are declining rapidly due to continuous deforestation for the logging industry and plantations as well as slash and burn agriculture. This species can only survive in primary vegetation.

