



Food is at the center of much chimpanzee social behavior. Food is shared between relatives and allies, but may also be kept away for individual use. Try these two experiments to find out more about it.

Instructions

Place a food, like raisins, that can be easily gathered and shared on a table. They should be placed far enough apart so that each person can gather some. On a signal, everyone should gather food. What happens?

Now give two or three people a food, like a candy bar, that is not as easily shared. Suggest to the remaining people that they do whatever they can (without touching the people with the candy bar) to share some of the monopolized food. What happens?

Try This, Too!

Watch the videos of chimpanzees sharing and monopolizing food at www.discoverchimpanzees.org/behaviors/top.php

Related Activities

*Which is easier to share?
A bowl of raisins or a candy bar?*

*Territorial Behavior
Tools for Tasks*