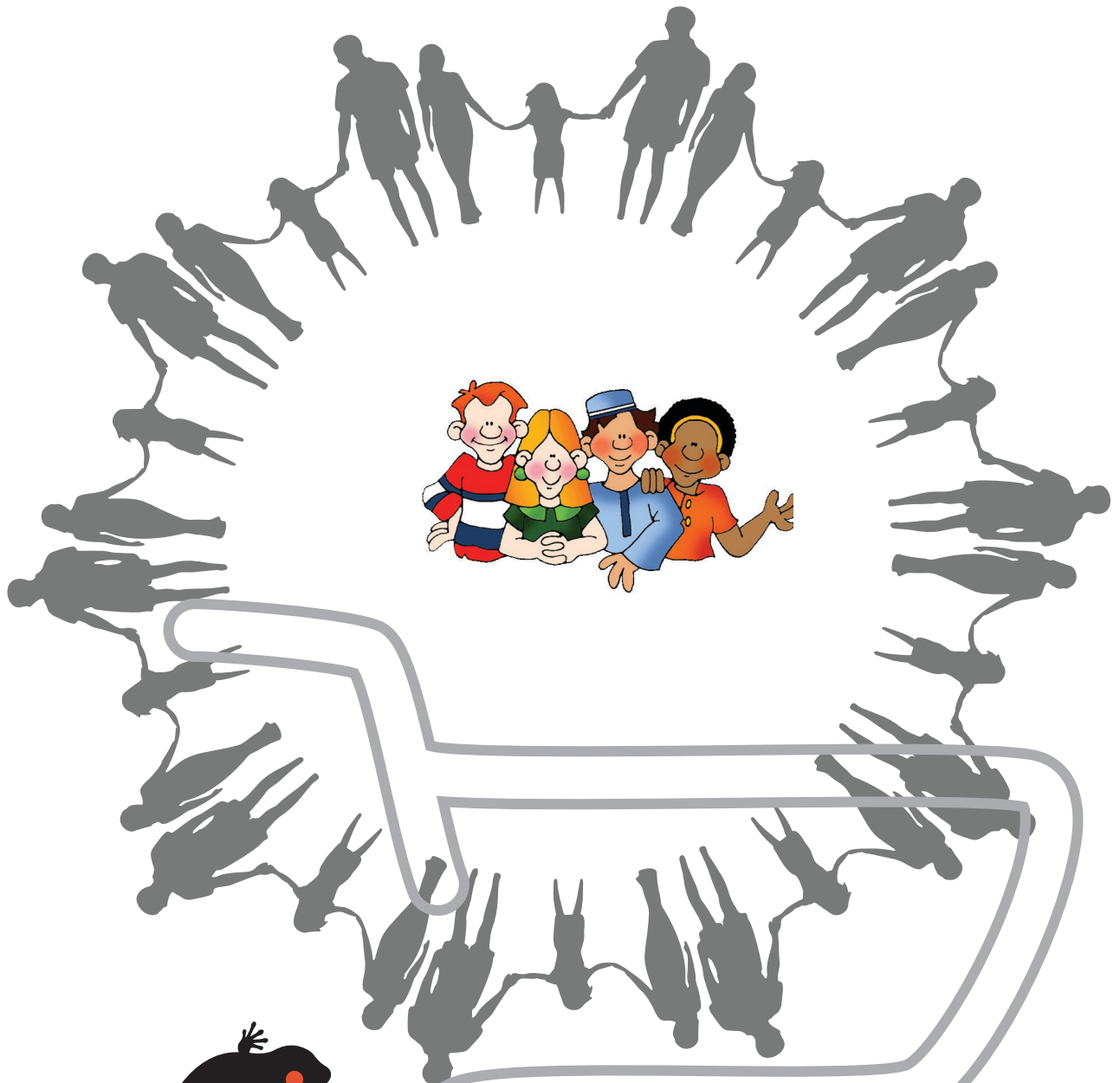
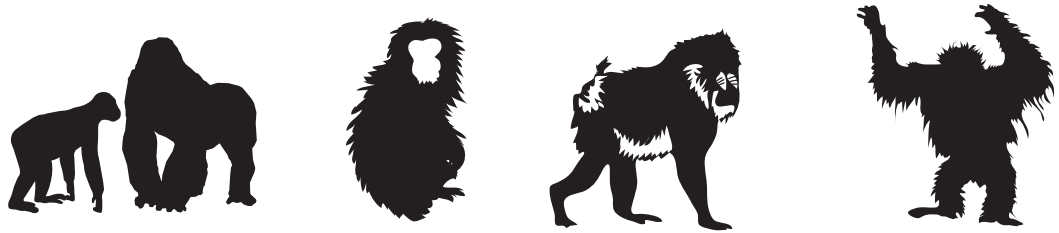


# PARENT HELPER GUIDE



# *Supermarket* **SCIENCE**

## Introduction to Primates



### How to Use These Learning Materials

These activities and worksheets are geared toward students, elementary through high school age, and their parents and teachers. They are organized by **talking points**—main themes and ideas that students are expected to learn during their school careers. The easier concepts are presented first. Each talking point has a few pages devoted to it.

There are five types of pages: **TEACH**, **LEARN**, **SHOW**, **USE**, and **DO**. The **TEACH** pages are for teachers and parents—it's good to know the goals of these activities and how they relate to the Core Curriculum Standards. **LEARN**, **SHOW**, **USE**, and **DO** are the students. There are some fun facts and illustrations as well as materials to use while working on the activities.

Next to some questions and images, there are icons of animals. For example, questions about elephants will have an elephant icon next to them. These icons can be used as keys to link information between this set of activities and the Animal Cards and Animal Guide, available for download.

Kids of all ages can do some or all of the activities in this set. Older students will obviously be able to do these activities at a higher level than the younger ones. Younger kids might need help with instructions and to have someone read to them. But even children who are currently in kindergarten would be able to understand and do some of these projects and activities. For children too young to write, have them tell you stories instead. For those students who require some extra paper to write their stories, please give them as much as they want. Reading and writing about science is still reading and writing!

Kids of all ages can create their own imaginary primates and relate their characteristics to ideas they've learned about on these pages. Have fun!



On each page, there are **primate** icons that represent the types of primate depicted on that page. Which is missing?

### The Prime Primate

Like no other set of Supermarket Science materials, the Primate set wants children to recognize themselves in the faces and behaviors of the animals they learn about here or during their visit to a local zoo. It's important to take the time to examine the physical and social characteristics that make humans primates. Let the kids examine their own and their family and friends' faces and hands. What senses are important to us? We all look different, but what characteristics make us all the same? You can use this time to develop a vocabulary with which to approach observation of other primates. Try to relate each observation back to the lives of the children.

### How to Use the Talking Points

The talking points are the main ideas of the Primate curriculum—the ideas that your students will remember from your field trip to the zoo, or from watching a documentary, or just by learning interesting facts about primates. They are:

**Looking in a Mirror:** an introduction to basic characteristics of primates

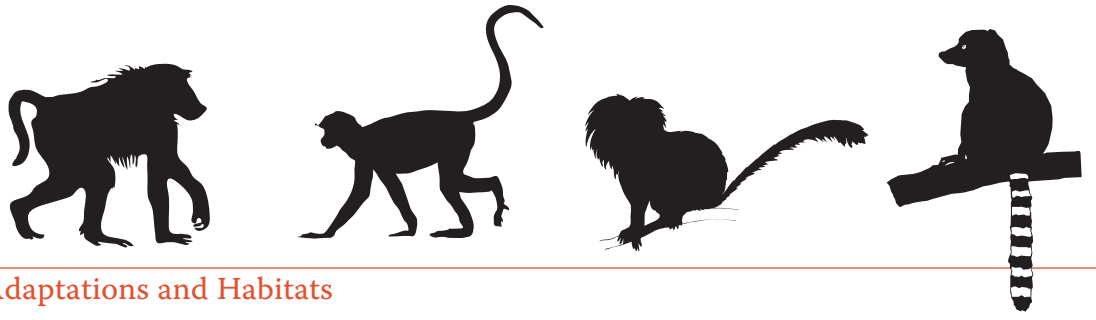
**Different Habitats, Different Primates:** primate adaptations to habitat conditions

**Living in Groups:** primates as social animals

**Living Together:** an introduction to primate conservation efforts

Pick one or two talking points and use the question and answer format with your kids—try to let them figure it out, teach them how to observe. The easier concepts and questions are presented before the more difficult ideas. Try to relate the ideas back to the lives of the children. Humans are primates, too!





### Adaptations and Habitats

An animal's adaptation is a set of characteristics such as body features, behavioral attributes, and other strategies that are advantageous to animal's survival. Each primate has many different adaptations that allow it to live in a particular habitat, gather food, find a mate, and foster an offspring. In particular, adaptations can be divided into external (color, size, shape, specific features, etc.), internal (bone composition, lung capacity, acuteness of hearing, number of stomachs, intelligence, etc.), and behavioral (social or solitary animal, nocturnal or diurnal, grooming habits, vocalizations, etc.).

To start thinking about primates' adaptations, ask the following questions:

What does a primate eat and how is its body adapted to eating that diet?

How does a primate get its food and what special "tools" or things it does to get it?

How does a primate escape danger?

How does a primate live in its environment and how is its body adapted to it?

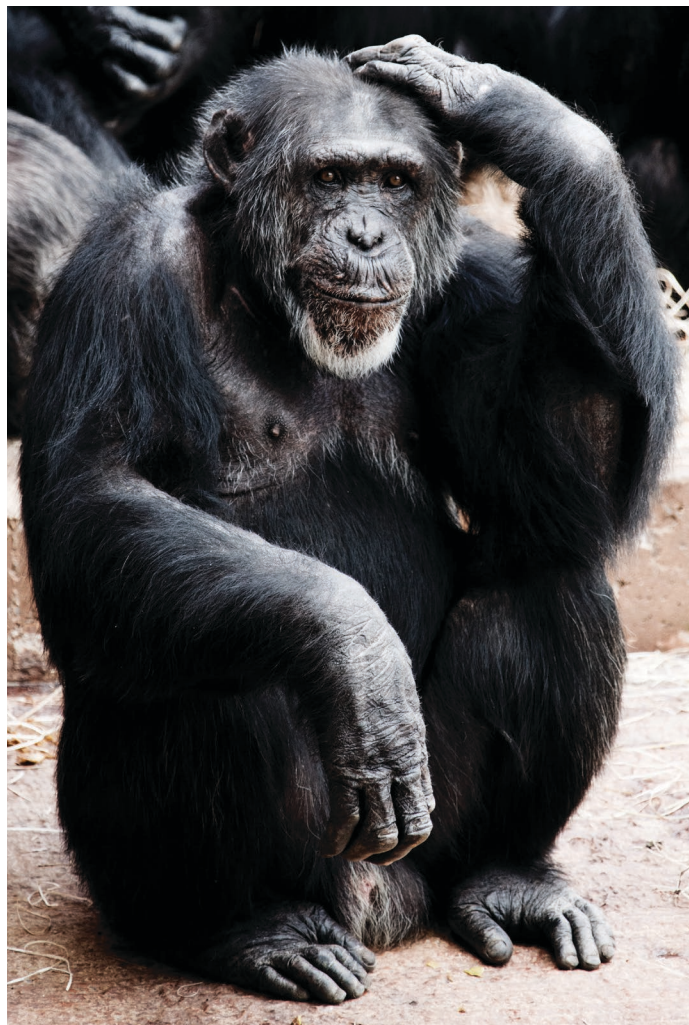
A habitat is a set of environmental conditions and a collection of living organisms that depend on those environmental conditions and on each other for survival. Living organisms are adapted to life in particular habitats—ocean fish are not found in a fresh water lakes, gorillas can't live in a desert, camels don't run through a tropical rainforest. By looking at the physical characteristics of a living organism (e.g., the body shape, the color of skin, the type of teeth, the amount of fat and blubber, the size and shape of the bones, the types of muscles, and so forth), we can tell a lot about the kind of habitat it come from and what it needs to survive.





### The Social Animals

Most primates don't live in isolation. They tend to live in family groups which depend on one another for survival. Primate babies are born less developmentally advanced than other animal babies—they need more time with their parents before they can venture into the world independently, able to take care of themselves on their own. A baby giraffe can walk minutes after birth. Not so a baby gorilla. And most human babies need a full year prior to gaining the ability to use their legs for transportation (as opposed to their knees and hands). But not only do baby primates need to grow to move around in their habitats, they need to learn the skills from their parents to be able to gather food and avoid danger and build shelter. The human primates call this education, and most kids go to school to learn the skills they will need to survive in this world. This means that to keep their children safe and fed and get them educated, primates need to stick together. Different primates have different strategies for living in groups. Compare the different social strategies among the primate groups living in a zoo and the primates visiting that zoo.



### Protecting the Present, Saving the Future

People change environments to fit their needs all the time: we cut down forests to make room for farms or to build cities. We do these things to feed and provide shelter to ourselves and to our children. But each time we cut down the forest, we change the habitat of the animals that used to live there. Where will these animals go? Where will they live? How do they get food? Animals and plants can't speak for themselves, but we as their guardians can. And we can choose to protect animals and their environments, we can choose to save them from extinction.

