



LEMUR LEARNING ACTIVITY

2020 World Lemur Festival Passport to Madagascar

Grab your passport and get ready to go. It's time for a Madagascar safari!

This activity can be used by anyone looking for a fun and engaging way to learn about lemurs! Teachers can set up stations in their classroom, zoo educators can set up tables in front of their lemur exhibit, organizations celebrating the World Lemur Festival can do the same wherever they hold an event, and parents can easily set up this activity at home!

How It Works

In Passport to Madagascar, participants “visit” three different parts of Madagascar, where each one of the 2020 World Lemur Festival featured lemur species calls home.

1. At each Education Station, use the corresponding one page info sheet to learn about the featured lemur species found in that area.
2. Then, complete the task for each station and write about what you learned in your Passport to Madagascar Field Notebook to earn your passport stamps!



WORLD
LEMUR
FESTIVAL
2020



EDUCATION STATIONS

STATION #1 Southeast Madagascar: Collared Brown Lemur

Background Info

The Collared Brown Lemur lives in beautiful Southeast Madagascar, where the dry forest meets the sea. The Collared Brown Lemur's diet is made up mainly of fruit. This makes them excellent seed dispersers of the forests they live in. When a lemur eats a fruit, the seeds are not digested. Instead, they are deposited in the lemur's droppings, usually in a completely different part of the forest from where the fruit was eaten. The seeds then germinate and grow in this new area, becoming new plants. In this way, lemurs are creators of the forests!



- [Lemur Fact Sheet on Collared Brown Lemur](#)

Task - Pollinator Seed Bomb Activity

What You'll Need:

- Compostable Paper (computer paper, newspaper, or construction paper works best)
- Water
- Food processor or blender
- Bowl
- Wildflower seeds (be sure to get seeds that are native to your area so as not to introduce any invasive species!)

Instructions:

1. Prep your paper! Tear a few sheets of paper into smaller pieces (about 1"x1") and place into a bowl.
2. Pour water into the bowl to soak the paper and soften the fibers. Let sit for about 20 minutes.
3. Shred the soaked paper using a food processor or blender. Note: the paper should be soggy, don't squeeze excess water out before shredding. Once blended, the paper mash should have a clay-like consistency.
4. Take a small handful of the paper mash and flatten it out. Add a sprinkle of wildflower seeds on top, then cover with another small handful of paper mash. Press firmly to make sure the paper sticks together around the seeds.
5. Shape your seed bombs however you like: make into a ball, a heart, use cookie cutters to make fancier shapes -- get creative! Set on a flat surface to dry overnight.
6. Channel your inner lemur and disperse some seeds! Toss your seed bomb in your garden, a park, or anywhere you think could use some new greenery. Note: the best time to toss a seed bomb is when there is rain in the forecast. The paper will break down and seeds will be activated by the rainfall.

*Steps 1-3 can be done a few hours ahead of time to streamline this activity. Just keep the soaked paper mash in a covered container so that it doesn't dry out too much before being used.

STATION #2 Northwest Madagascar: Crowned Sifaka

Background Info

Crowned sifakas live in the dry forests along rivers near the Tsingy de Bemaraha National Park. Tsingy are limestone peaks that jut out of the soil. Crowned Sifakas are arboreal, meaning they live most of their life in the trees. They use their powerful legs to leap from tree to tree, and can clear a distance of 30 feet in one jump!

- [Lemur Fact Sheet on Crowned Sifaka](#)

Task - Lemur Leap Activity

What You'll Need:

- Open space with a hard surface (tile floor, long walkway, concrete parking lot)
- Chalk or masking tape
- Tape measure

Instructions:

1. Use the tape measure to measure out a line of 30 feet.
2. Use chalk or masking tape to mark the line. Mark each foot with chalk or another small piece of tape.
3. From a standing position (no running start!), jump as far as you can from the starting line. Mark the place where you land with chalk or a small piece of tape.
4. Compare your jump length to that of a Sifaka!





STATION #3 East Madagascar: Diademed Sifaka

Background Info

Diademed Sifakas live in the rainforests in East Madagascar. One area they live in is Andasibe-Mantadia National Park, which is only a 3 hour drive from Madagascar's capital city of Antananarivo.

The Diademed Sifaka is one of the largest species of Sifaka, and spends most of the day patrolling and defending its territory. All that moving around uses a lot of energy, so the Diademed Sifaka also spends a lot of time searching for and eating high-energy foods!

- [Lemur Fact Sheet on the Diademed Sifaka](#)

Task - Madagascar Word Search

What You'll Need:

- Madagascar Word Search worksheet (included with Passport to Madagascar Field Notebook)
- Writing instrument (pen, pencil, crayon, marker, highlighter, etc.)

Instructions:

1. You're a Diademed Sifaka on daily patrol! Forage for the listed words to keep your energy up.
2. Find all the words and earn your Northeast Madagascar passport stamp!

