



TEACHER PACKET

APES



Ryan Hawk, WPZ



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Recommended for grades 6–9

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Dear Teacher,

This packet explores the primate group of apes. While there is much content information for teachers to learn and share from this packet, suggested activities emphasize general, transferable science skills. The curriculum is designed for use with students in grades 6 through 9. A student who can master these skills not only potentially gains and retains knowledge of apes, but also the ability to examine any taxonomic group in the animal kingdom by applying the same inquiry methods.

The goal of this packet is for students to make connections between physical, behavioral, and environmental characteristics of a taxonomic group, in order to build to an understanding of adaptation and strategies for survival. To this end, the packet encourages inquiry-based learning to develop the knowledge and skills necessary. The packet also explores the urgent issue of ape conservation. Using an interdisciplinary approach, the curriculum allows students to examine the crisis of the endangered status of our closest living relatives as an avenue to develop ideas about moral and ethical applications for scientific knowledge.

This packet may be used in combination with a zoo visit, and you will find recommendations for pre-visit, on-site and post-visit activities that may be of most use in structuring a learning experience from your visit. The packet also stands alone for use in a classroom for those unable to visit Woodland Park Zoo. The interdisciplinary nature of the curriculum allows students to appreciate the reach of science into different aspects of their existence. Teachers may find applications for this material in instruction of mathematics, geography, communication and writing. Suggested activities can be modified to fit your students' interests and capabilities.

For those teachers interested in more information about other primates, including prosimians and monkeys, look for items marked with the monkey  icon. Finally, while this packet contains many worksheets that can be reproduced for students and teachers, it is important to remember that the reduction of paper use and the recycling of paper are essential duties we can all do to help conserve our resources.

Please see the Education section of the zoo's website (www.zoo.org) for more information or to register for a self-guided visit or a school program at the zoo.

Sincerely,

Woodland Park Zoo
Education Department

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This packet was developed by Rebecca Durkin Whitham, Master's degree candidate with the University of Washington's Museum Studies program, in conjunction with Katie Remine in Woodland Park Zoo's Education Department. Additional assistance and classroom-testing of activities in this packet were provided by Kristina Peterson of Lakeside School and Woodland Park Zoo's Teacher Advisory Council.