

Don't Know Much About History

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This is a fun game to test the team's knowledge on the natural history of the animals in their care. This game will take some pre work on the facilitator's part but is well worth it. This game can also include or be done solely with questions about the animal's individual histories!

Number of people/players: The natural history game can be played with an unlimited number of people.

Time required: One and a half hours.

Number of rounds: One round of this game can be played.

Instructions:

Pre-work: Prior to the game being played, the facilitator does some pre-work. He or she creates three to five questions about the different species under the teams care and researches the correct answers. The facilitator can get help with this from managers or keepers who will not be participating in the game due to days off or vacation.

Game day: Divide the team into groups of three. Try to balance new and veteran keepers to make the teams even. Designate each team with a color or name and write them on a dry erase board for scoring. Now the game begins. Ask the first group a question and give them a set (reasonable) amount of time to answer. If they answer correctly, they get one point and some candy. If they answer incorrectly the question goes to the next team. If this next team answers correctly they get two points and candy. If they answer incorrectly, the same question gets passed onto the next team. If the third team answers correctly they get three points and candy. If playing with more than three teams, continue passing the question until all teams have had a try. This makes it possible for teams to catch up quickly and avoids a blowout if one team gets way ahead in the beginning. It is also important that the teams discuss their answers discreetly so they do not give the answer to the other team. If the question is true/false or multiple choice it should be limited so that a team does not get to answer a question that only has one choice left. The number of questions asked is up to the facilitator.

After all the questions have been asked, a bonus question is posed. The facilitator writes a list of the species in the team's collection on the dry erase board. Each team is then asked to write down on a piece of paper the scientific names of all their species. One point is given for the correct genus and species and extra credit points are given for the subspecies and correct spelling. Again, this can be lot of points and allows teams to catch up. The team with the most points wins and gets a prize.

Facilitated by: A keeper or a manager can facilitate this game.

Discussion points: The importance of knowing the natural history of the species you are working with. The effect this knowledge can have on setting behavioral goals for training, selection of reinforcement, selecting behavioral goals for enrichment and types of enrichment initiatives selected.

The following pages are a sample of questions compiled by Disney's Animal Programs' primate team.

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Sample Game
Primate Natural History Questions
(answers in red)

1. Name genus and species of
white-cheeked gibbon? *Nomascus leukogenys*
mandrill? *Mandrillus sphinx*
gorilla? *Gorilla gorilla*
colobus? *Colobus guereza*
siamang? *Hylobates syndactylus*
yellow-backed duiker? *Cephalophus silvicultor*
2. Name 2 behaviors considered to be a threat w/ colobus monkeys?
tongue-clicking
straight leg penis display
jumping through canopy and roaring
3. Name 2 species of primates where the sire will actively carry offspring?
Cotton top tamarins
siamangs
4. Name 2 species of primates where infants or juveniles change color?
white-cheeked gibbons
colobus
langurs
5. Name 2 individuals in the DAK collection that ear clasp?
Zawadi gorilla
Benga gorilla
A.J. gibbon
6. What is the English translation for
Jabari? *handsome*
Makena? *smiling girl*
7. T or F: Mandrills and drills are the only Old World monkeys that scent mark.
True
8. What two areas are siamangs indigenous?
Sumatra and Malay peninsula
9. Name two of the countries to which western lowland gorillas are indigenous.
Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria, Central African Republic, DRC, Congo, Gabon, Cameroon
10. Name two species of primates where allomothering has been documented?
colobus and langurs
11. What makes up approximately 70% of a duikers diet in the wild?
fruit

12. What is believed to be the social structure of duikers?
solitary
13. What three colobus are full siblings?
Haley, Morgan, Mac
14. Name 4 out of 6 of the primates in the collection who were handreared for any period of time?
Spike, Zawadi, Gus, Gino-gorillas
Snow-mandrill
Bahari-siamang
15. What genus of primate were mandrills considered a part of until about 1989?
baboons (Papio)