




Instructions for Completion of the Primate Observation Log

For each of the eight primates, students should record data that will be useful for a post-Zoo visit classroom exercise. Below is a brief description of each of the categories included on the Primate Observation Log.

1. **Locomotion** - Many of the primates are both bipedal (walking upright on the hind legs) and quadrupedal (using all four limbs to locomote). Encourage the students to watch carefully the positions for the hands and feet as the primate walks. Some primates, such as the siamang, are most at home when swinging from branch to branch (brachiating) through the trees.
2. **Arm Length** - To help the student evaluate the relative proportions of the limbs of primates, have each students measure the length of the primate's legs. The arms will be greater than (>), less than (<), or equal to (=) the length of the legs. As a post-Zoo visit exercise, you could relate the relative length of the arms with the primary mode of locomotion.
3. **Tail**- The presence or absence of a tail signifies if the primate is a ape or a monkey.
4. **Status** - Most primates are either endangered or threatened, note the symbol on each of the signs at the Zoo signifying the status of that species. The symbol has the skull of a "generalized antelope" on it identifying an endangered species. (Official symbol of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums) 
5. **Reason for Status** - Most species become endangered because of destruction of their habitat. Point out to your students the reason for the habitat destruction (clear-cutting of forests for wood products, clearing the land for agricultural purposes, etc.)
6. **Observed Behavior** - Have the students record the specific behavior of each primate when first observed. These data results can then be used to tabulate "activity histograms." Students should record the time of their observation on their log. Back in school (post-visit), you could select one or two species (those that were most active on the day of the visit), to illustrate an "activity histogram." On an hour by frequencies into percent of total activity. These converted frequencies can be plotted as a bar graph (histogram) to help students visualize changes of behavior over time.