

Wednesday: Primates

Primates are an amazing order of mammals! This order includes lemurs, monkeys, and apes. Depending on how certain species are defined, there are over 200 species of primates that call our planet home. Some of their major characteristics include...



Lemurs

- pointed snout
- long tail
- large eyes
- nails and grooming claws on some toes



- large brain
- nails



Monkeys

- small to medium in size
- long tail
- forward facing eyes
- large brain
- nails

Apes

- medium to large in size
- no tail
- hair instead of fur

Life without Thumbs Activity

We use our thumbs every day. Without thumbs we wouldn't be able to tie our shoes, do our homework or play our video games! Can you imagine a life without thumbs? For this activity we are going to simulate life without thumbs.

Supply List

Scraps of fabric, string or something to tie

Masking tape

Activity Instructions

First, you are going to tape your thumb to the inside of your palm. Make sure to use masking tape so when you take it off it doesn't hurt your skin. If you have an old pair of gloves, they would also work just don't put your thumb in the hole. You will need to do this with both hands so you may need some help. For this activity we raced one of our friends to see who could tie a bow around a pole the fastest, without thumbs. You can do this on your own or race a friend. Then take the tape off your hands and repeat the race using your thumbs. Was it easier with or without your thumbs? What other activities do you use your thumbs for?

Digital Resource (Optional)

Did you know that you could symbolically adopt one of the zoo's primate residents? Visit <https://www.folrz.com/animals> to find out more about supporting Lee Richardson Zoo and the animals we care for.