

Primate, Cat, & Aquatics Scavenger Hunt: Grades 4-6

1. In Madagascar, the fossa is the largest terrestrial (living) predator. Fossas live in all the forested areas of Madagascar. Look at the fossa. How has the fossa adapted to living in forested areas?
2. Observe all of the nocturnal animals in the darkened room. What similarities do you notice between the different species? Pay particular attention to their faces; what feature do they almost all share?
3. Observe the gorillas in their exhibit. Gorillas are herbivores, which means that they eat plants. However, they still have large canine teeth. Most animals use these teeth to rip and tear meat when eating. What other use might gorillas have for canine teeth if they do not use them for eating?
4. Many of the animals in this building are found only on the island of Madagascar. Fossas are the largest predators in Madagascar. As you walk through the building, what animals do you think the fossa might prey on. (Remember to look for animals that are found in Madagascar).
5. Observe the black howler monkeys on the upper platform. You will see two colors: males are black while females are tan. How many boys do you see? How many girls do you see?
6. Here at the zoo we have four species of lemurs. Lemurs are primates, like monkeys, apes, and humans and are only found on the island of Madagascar. Observe the red-ruffed lemur, crowned lemur, mongoose lemur, and ring-tailed lemur. How are they the same? How are they different? Look at their colors, size, patterns, and markings.
7. Head over to the aquatics area and find the octopus. Animals have many different kinds of defense mechanisms to protect themselves from being killed by predators. The Giant Pacific Octopus can shoot out ink when frightened to confuse and distract predators. Some species of octopus can even shed an arm if they are being pursued by a predator. Don't worry, though, their arms grow back. How might shedding an arm protect an octopus from being eaten by a predator?
8. Some fish are solitary and live alone, while others are considered "schooling" fish and live in very large groups and swim very close together. What is the advantage of living in a large, tight group?
9. Observe our tropical fish in their tanks. Here you will find many different colorful, unique species such as clownfish, blue tangs, boxfish, and pufferfish. These species are found in coral reefs and depend on these reefs for survival. However, climate change and warm ocean waters, in addition to pollution, are destroying many coral reefs around the world. How can individuals like you help protect coral reefs and the animals that live there?
10. Cheetahs and snow leopards are two species of large cats. Thinking back to your answers for question 1, observe the cheetahs. How are cheetahs adapted to living in the plains of Africa?

