

Primate, Cat, & Aquatics Scavenger Hunt Answers: Grades 7-8

1. You can help address and combat the illegal pet trade by making sure that the pets you purchase are domesticated and not taken from the wild; ask the pet store where they get their animals from. You can inform your friends and others about the dangers of the pet trade and encourage others not to purchase wild animals. You can speak out or choose not to promote, like, or share, videos of wild pets on the internet. You can contact government representatives and encourage them to support legislation that protects animals and criminalizes the exotic pet trade.
2. Apes: gorillas. Monkeys: black howler, white-faced saki, and red titi. Prosimians: slow loris, aye-aye, and ring-tailed lemur.
3. One indicator of intelligence among apes is the use of tools. Apes in wild and in captivity have been seen using tools made out of sticks or leaves to help them accomplish a task, such as measuring the depth of a stream with a stick. Complex communication is another indicator of intelligence. Biologists study the way apes communicate and have determined that they are well adept at communicating vocally and through body language. Some captive apes have even been taught simple sign language skills.
4. Male mandrills are larger and much more colorful than female mandrills. The males have bright red and blue noses and rears and yellow fur on the chin. The males are bright and pronounced in order to attract a female. Females prefer larger and more colorful males.
5. Fossas in the wild most commonly prey on lemurs and other small primates.
6. The clownfish are immune to the stings of the anemone, but other fish are not. Clownfish are protected from larger, predatory fish by the stinging anemone. Clownfish eggs and young are also safe in an anemone. The anemone benefits in this relationship as well. The clownfish excretes waste which feeds the anemone and makes it stronger. Clownfish also clean the anemone and keep parasites away.
7. If an octopus is being chased by a predator, detaching its arm may distract the predator long enough for the octopus to get away. This is called autotomy.
8. Just like herd animals on land, living in large schools with other fish provides protection from predators. It is harder for a predator to pick out one fish when they are all swimming in a tight ball.
9. Red pandas are considered *living fossils* because they are not closely related to any other living species. They are the only living species in the Ailuridae family. Most biologists agree that the red panda's closest living relatives are raccoons, weasels, and skunks.
10. Cheetahs are long and slender and weigh less than most other big cats which helps them attain high speeds quickly. Unlike other cats, they cannot retract their claws; instead, they are always out. The claws help cheetahs maintain traction when running. Their long, flat tails help them balance and quickly zig and zag when chasing prey. Their long, powerful legs allow them to take long strides and cover more ground in less strides.