

Toronto Star Livestream – Toronto Zoo Lemurs (Grade 5)

The following activities are intended to be used as a follow-up exercise after viewing the Toronto Zoo ring-tailed lemurs on the Toronto Star’s livestream.

ACTIVITY ONE- Lemur Digestion

How does a lemur’s diet differ from yours or mine? Take a look at the live stream to see if you can spot any lemur food. (Hint: the best times to look for food are early to mid morning and mid afternoon). If you can’t see any on the live stream, take some time to brainstorm what kind of foods you think a lemur might eat.

What would a lemur eat?

Based on your observations (brainstorm or research) which category would you say a ringtailed lemur would fall into? (highlight the one you think a lemur is)

Carnivore: Animal that just eats _____.

Herbivore: Animal that just eats _____.

Omnivore: Animal that just eats _____.



ACTIVITY TWO- Lemur Enrichments

Take a look at the lemur live stream, what do you see in their exhibit? What are some of the items you can spot?

Item: _____

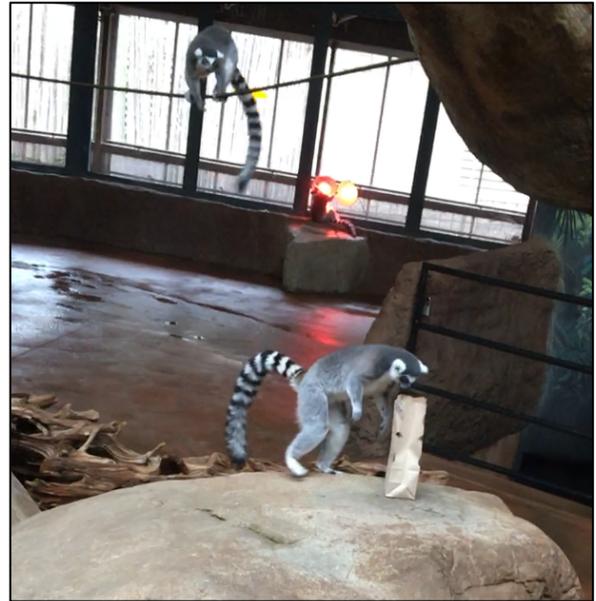
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h01J1z1is-0>



Looking at the items you found were any of them unnatural? (Items that look like they don't necessarily belong in a lemur exhibit?)

Those items may be made out of plastic or cardboard and placed there on purpose. We call those objects enrichments, and they have a special function that helps our animals with their digestion.

Enrichments are used to simulate a natural behaviour for animals at the Zoo. Many animals spend the majority of their day looking for and eating their food. At the Toronto Zoo we give our animals the right amount of food each day to keep them healthy. So to mimic their foraging, we place food into different objects that force the lemurs to spend more time eating. Slowing down their eating helps regulate their digestion. Take a look below at some close up photos of when our lemurs were given decorated paper bags as enrichments.



Write down the types of food lemurs like to eat to help you decide which foods you would put in a lemur enrichment, if you were able to design one.

Draw your lemur enrichment here!

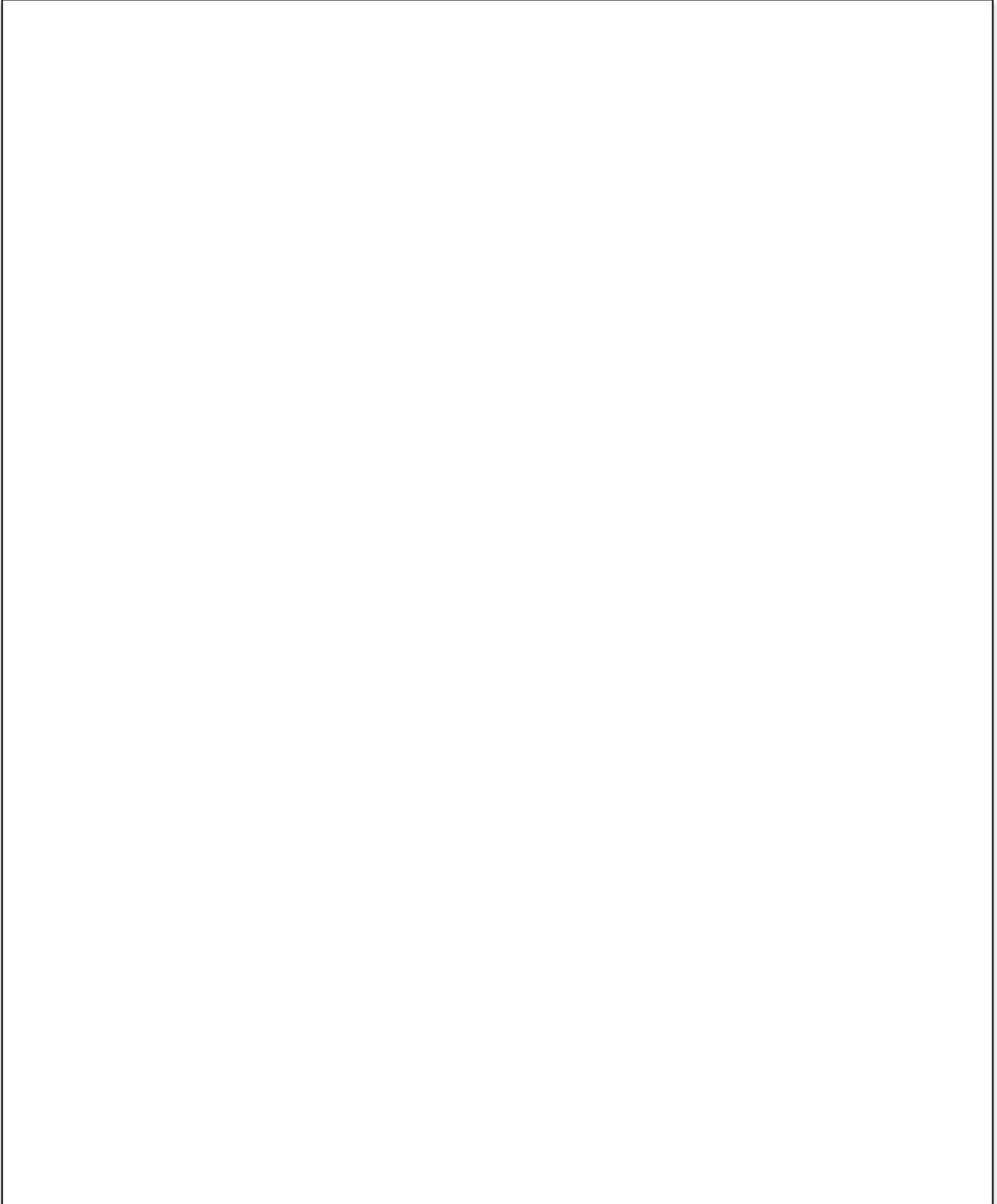


Photo credits:

Toronto Zoo website / facebook

Mary Ellen Fraser, Programs Coordinator Toronto Zoo

Answers:

Some Items you may see: trees, rocks, ladders, rope, old fire hose, food, brows (branches with leaves the lemurs can eat), cups, cardboard, “toys”, hay basket

Ring tailed lemurs are omnivores. They feed on a variety of fruits, as well as leaves, flowers, grasses, bark, and tree sap. They occasionally eat insects and other small animals, as well as bird eggs.