

Name: _____

Arboreal Ape

By Guy Belleranti

On a visit to the zoo you hear a whooping, singing call. You look around. "What kind of bird is that?" you ask a zookeeper.

"It isn't a bird," you're



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In a zoo often think they're looking at a monkey, but gibbons are not monkeys. They're apes. Apes don't have tails. Monkeys do. Apes also have more developed brains than monkeys.

Gibbons are smaller than gorillas, chimpanzees, and other great apes, but they are close relatives. Because they are smaller, they're labeled "lesser" apes.



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Gibbons live in small family groups. Each group consists of one adult male, one adult female, and their young. Mated adults usually remain together for life. After a number of years, the young leave to form their own pairs and begin their own family groups.

There are many species of gibbons. All live in Asia. The largest, the siamang, can reach 30 pounds



insects, spiders, small birds, and



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Gibbons are very agile and sometimes climb as high as 80 to 100 feet (24 to 30 meters) above the ground. That's the height of an 8 or 10 story building!

Gibbons' arms are longer than their legs. They swing gracefully in the trees. If necessary, they can move quickly, arm over arm, from branch to branch. This motion is called brachiation.

Gibbons especially love fruit. They also occasionally eat leaves,

or prey.

Unfortunately, the gibbons' agility has not protected them from humans. Their wild habitat continues to be destroyed by the cutting and burning of rainforest for agriculture. The illegal capture and selling of young gibbons as pets also endanger all gibbon species. But we can help. Choose agricultural products grown in sustainable ways and speak out against illegal wildlife trading.

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1. According to the article, where do gibbons live?

2. Explain how different families of gibbons communicate with each other.



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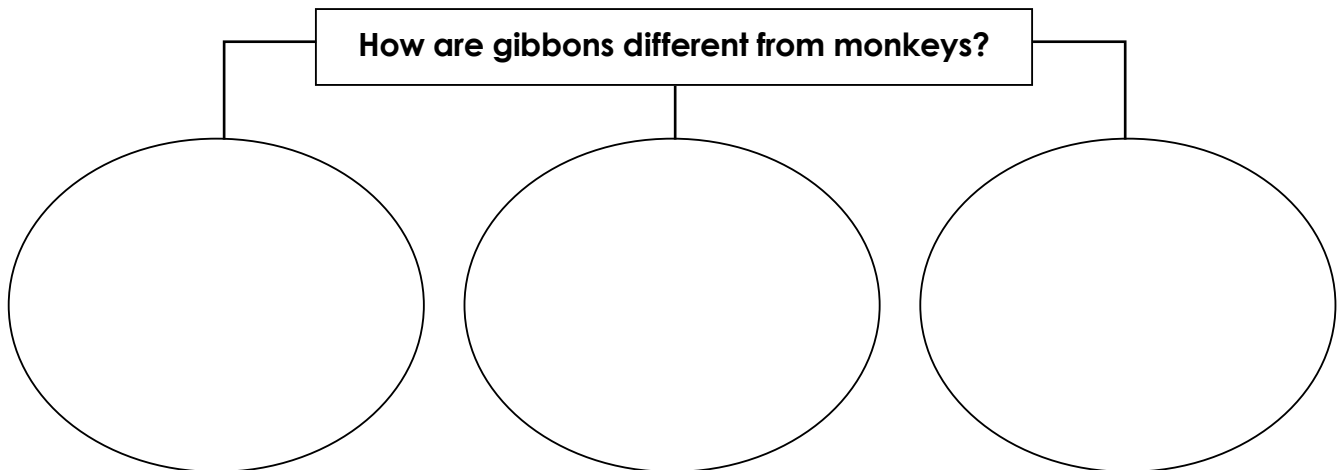
a. difficult to move

b. able to move quickly and easily

c. being uncoordinated

d. moving slowly

4. Complete the web with information from the article.



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Arboreal Ape

In the article, "Arboreal Ape," you learned about a unique type of ape called a gibbon.

On the lines below, describe why you think the author chose to title the article "Arboreal Ape." Be sure to explain what arboreal means and use specific facts from the article to support your answer.



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ANSWER KEY

Arboreal Ape

By Guy Belleranti



1. According to the article, where do gibbons live?

Gibbons live in Asia.

2. Explain how different families of gibbons communicate with each other.



Gibbons are apes.

Gibbons do not have tails.

Gibbons have more developed brains than monkeys.

ANSWER KEY

Arboreal Ape

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Down:

2. swinging by moving arm over arm
4. animals that spend most of their time in trees
5. to cause something to be threatened
6. a group of related animals or plants that have shared qualities

Across:

1. able to be used without being completely used up or destroyed
3. the largest species of gibbon
4. able to move quickly and easily
7. a small ape that has long arms and legs and lives mostly in trees
8. the place or environment where a plant or animal lives and grows
9. an area that an animal or group of animals uses and defends