

How Brainy are Monkeys? classroom activities

For use with “How Brainy are Monkeys?” *Highlights*, March 2013, pages 36-37

Animals and Habitat

Where do black howler monkeys live?

Why are they endangered?

What is it like in the rainforest?

Why do howler monkeys roar?

Scientific process

What do researchers in Belize need to watch out for?

How many monkeys live in a troop?

What was Dr. Kitchen’s hypothesis?

How did she test it?

What were her findings?

Activity 1

Objective: For students to hear different sized troops of howler monkeys.

Materials: computer with internet connection

Procedure:

1. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xxzbqmFkXwU> to view a video of a Costa Rican mantled howler monkey calling (this is not the same species as that studied by Dr. Kitchen).
2. Visit <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/videos/black-howler-monkey-audio> and listen to the audio file.
3. Ask students how many monkeys they think are calling in the second recording.
4. Does the Rainforest Alliance troop seem bigger, smaller, or the same size as the Costa Rica troop?
5. If the students were in a troop with three males, what would they do if they encountered the Costa Rica troop?
6. What would they do if they encountered the Rainforest Alliance troop?