MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

RING-TAILED LEMUR

Lemur catta

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL GROUP	Mammal — primate (lemur)
NATIVE RANGE	Southern and southwestern Madagascar
HABITAT	Forest and scrubland
DIET	Omnivore: fruit, leaves, flowers, bark, sap
SIZE	Body 15–18 in; tail 22–25 in
WEIGHT	About 5 lb
LIFESPAN	About 16 to 19 years in the wild; up to 27 in human care
STATUS	Endangered (IUCN)
OUR LEMURS	Catherine (Cat), Jessica and Phil



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

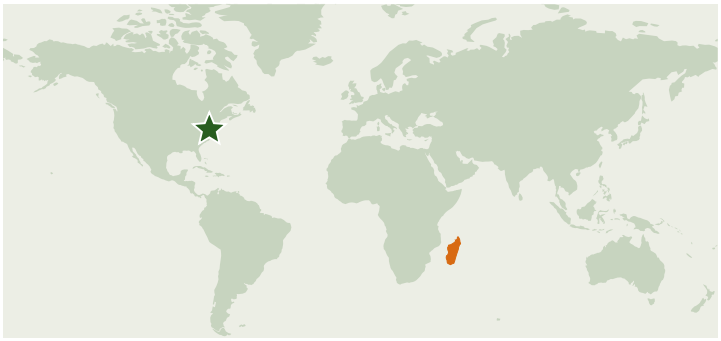
Did you know?

- Ring-tailed lemurs spend more time on the ground than other lemurs, about a third of their day.
- Researchers have counted at least 28 different ring-tailed lemur calls.
- Troops are led by females, who outrank every male in the group.
- A walking lemur holds its tail high like a flag so the troop can see it.
- Lemurs “sun” by sitting upright with their arms out and bellies toward the morning sun.

Words to know

Troop: a group of lemurs that live together.
Matriarchal: led by females.
Omnivore: an animal that eats plants and animals.
Sunning: sitting with the belly toward the sun.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Think about it

1. What is a ring-tailed lemur’s tail used for?
2. Who leads a ring-tailed lemur troop?
3. Why do lemurs sit with their arms out in the morning?
4. On what island do wild ring-tailed lemurs live?
5. How does a baby lemur travel in its first weeks?

Draw it

Draw a ring-tailed lemur. Color its tail with black and white rings and label its mask, tail and hands.

STANDARDS · GRADES 3–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **3-LS2-1 · 4-LS1-1 · 3-LS4-3**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.3.B · 3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.G**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/ringtail-lemur/ · **Sources:** Duke Lemur Center; Primate Info Net; Animal Diversity Web; IUCN Red List.
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 3-LS2-1 (3.1.3.B) · 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 3-LS4-3 (3.1.3.G)
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FIELD TRIP WORKSHEET · PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

RING-TAILED LEMUR

Before and after your visit

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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the ring-tailed lemur live?

Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Troop ☐ Matriarchal ☐ Omnivore ☐ Sunning

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the ring-tailed lemur.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: Southern and southwestern Madagascar. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Omnivore: fruit, leaves, flowers, bark, sap. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• Who leads a ring-tailed lemur troop?

_____

• Why do lemurs sit with their arms out in the morning?

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/ringtail-lemur/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.

Grades 3–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **3-LS2-1 · 4-LS1-1 · 3-LS4-3** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.3.B · 3.1.4.A · 3.1.3.G**

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