Week 5 – Playful Primates

Materials Needed:

* Construction paper – insects, leaves, fruit, baby monkeys
* Cooked crickets/worms

Focus:

* What are primates?
* What can we learn from studying primates?
* Why is it important to study primates?
* What do primates eat?

Learning Objectives:

* To show similarities between humans and other primates through skeletal structure, behaviors, and physical abilities
* Understand the differences between apes and monkeys
* To understand how studying other primates helps us learn about ourselves

Input and Modeling:

* Ask about their knowledge of primates
* Show them characteristics of primates that make us unique
  + Grasping thumbs
  + Binocular vision
  + Brachiation
* Teach them about different primate diets

Check Understanding:

Independent Practice: Meddling Monkeys (Attached) and Insect Eating

Summary: Ask questions to check for understanding.

Powerpoint Script

Welcome back to Anthropology!

Slide 2

Let’s review CLAP. Say it with me…

Slide 3

So today, we’re studying primates. Who knows what a primate is?

-Primates are bushbabies, monkeys, and apes

What about humans?

Slide 4

-Yes!

Slide 5

Apes are covered in hair and generally have short or no tails. Some apes are chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, bonobos, and humans.

Slide 6

Monkeys have smaller bodies and some have long, prehensile tails that help them balance and move from tree to tree.

Slide 7

Indonesian Primates

Slide 8

Why do we study primates?

-We can learn about humans by studying other primates because we are related

-We can help save the environment by studying their environments

Slide 9

What do we study about primates?

-We study their behavior, their anatomy, their social structures or relationships, and their genes

-And we study these things because they teach us about our own behaviors, anatomy’s, social structures, and genes

-for instance, us primates are the only mammals that are able to use our shoulders to brachiate

-and we actually share about 90-95% of our genes with chimpanzees

Slide 10

Why might we study primate anatomy?

-it is very much like our own. For example, primates are the only mammals that have opposable thumbs, shoulders that can brachiate, and binocular vision. See how similar our hands and bodies are?

Slide 11

We also study primates’ diets.

Who knows what an herbivore is?

An animal that eats plants

What about an omnivore?

An animal that eats plants and meat, such as insects

What about a frugivore?

An animal that eats fruit

Primates eat different types of food to get their energy. Some foods, such as fruit, provide primates with more calories, or energy, than other foods, such as insects. Bigger primates need more food to fill themselves than smaller primates.

Slide 12

How do primates move around?

Most primates are quadrupeds, which means that they walk on all fours on their knuckles. Some primates are also arboreal, which means they live in trees. That’s where brachiating and prehensile tails.