

wild about monkeys!



## What is a Woolly Monkey?

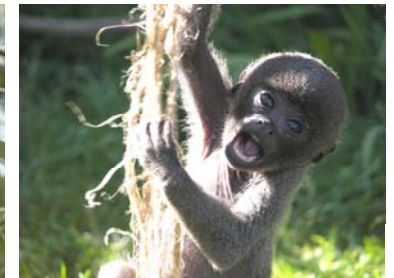
Woolly monkeys live in the Amazon Rainforest in South America and are known as "new world" monkeys. The reason they are called this is because America was named the "New World" when Christopher Columbus found out it existed in 1492 when he sailed around the world. "Old world" monkeys live in Asia and Africa and include chimpanzees and baboons.

The first woolly monkeys were found by the famous German explorer Alexander von Humbolt in the early 1800's. Their name in latin means "hair like a hare" because their coat is like rabbit or hare fur.

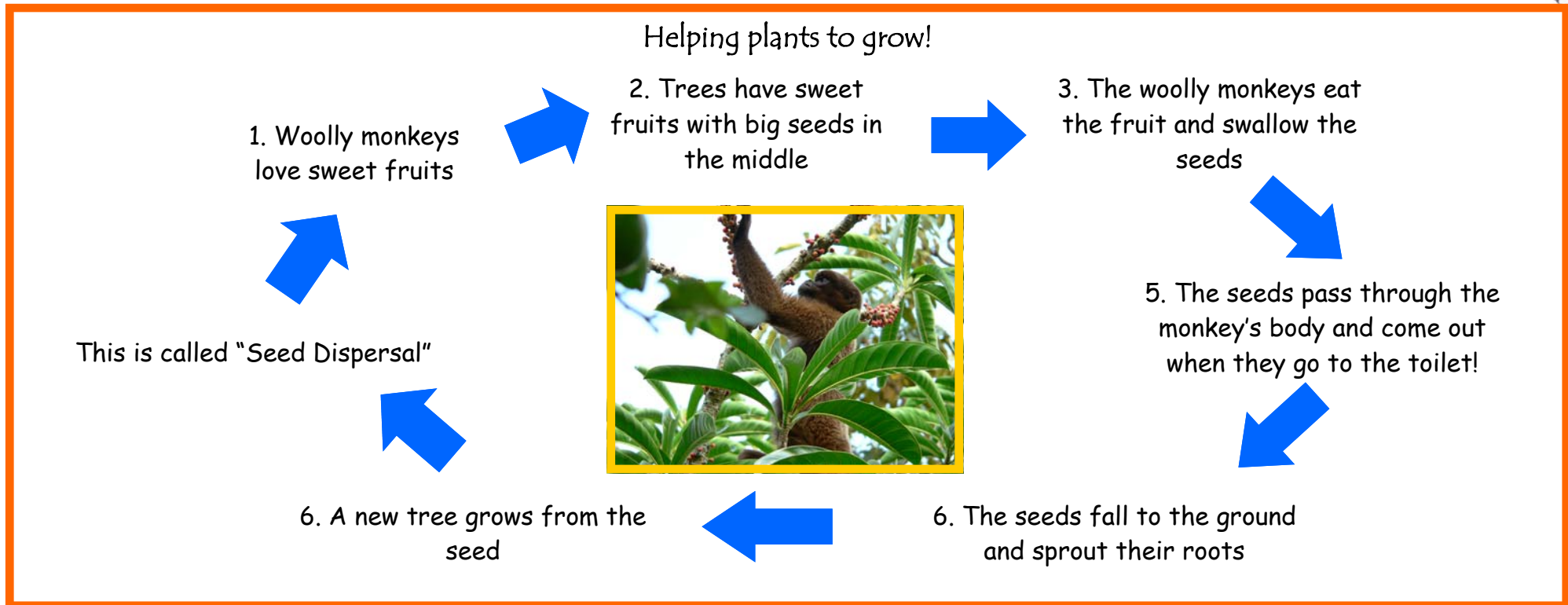
Woolly monkeys live in groups of 10-40 in the canopy between 100-200 feet above the ground. Many monkeys will spend all their lives in the trees, never climbing down to the floor.

Adult male woolly monkeys are very strong because they need to protect the rest of the colony from the dangers of the forest!

Woolly monkeys have an amazing tail with a palm on the end of it like the palm of our hands. They can use their tail like an extra arm, carrying things with it, swinging from branches and making sure they do not fall out of trees by hanging on tightly! This type of tail is called a *prehensile* tail.



# Why are woolly monkeys important to the rainforest?



As well as helping plants to grow, woolly monkeys are also important for other animals in the rainforest. The way they eat is very messy—they will eat the juiciest and sweetest part of a fruit and often leave the rest, letting it drop to the floor. Other monkeys, like capuchins or squirrel monkeys follow behind the woolly monkeys at a lower level of the forest and pick up the fruits that have been dropped. Animals on the ground like peccaries (which are a bit like pigs) will then pick up what is left and what they leave will rot on the ground and the trees and plants will suck the goodness back up.

This process is known as a "nutrient cycle" and is very important for life everywhere, not just in the rainforest.

# Monkey Talk

Woolly monkeys talk to each other by using their own language. Here are just some of the ways that they tell each other what they are doing and how they are feeling...

Eeolk!

This is the noise the monkeys make to find out where their friends are. It means "I'm here, where are you?"

Snuffle

A quiet noise made by monkeys to make friends, or to say sorry. They cover their mouths while they make the noise so their teeth are not showing and they are not seen as a threat

Trill!

Means "I'm happy, I've just found some lovely food!"

YOK YOK YOK!  
Means "I'm afraid, somebody help me!"

SCREAM!

The noise monkeys make when they are arguing, or if they have just been told off!

Chuckle!

The noise that monkeys make when they play. It sounds like a human laughing quietly. Young monkeys use this noise to show grown-ups that they are not fighting, but simply having a game





## What is a Capuchin Monkey?

Capuchins are smaller than woolly monkeys and are very clever. They use stones as tools to crack open nuts that are too hard to break with their teeth. Apart from capuchins, only humans and the great apes are known to use tools.

Capuchins' tails are not like woolly monkeys' - they cannot use them like an extra limb, but they can carry things with them and use them for balance.

Capuchins live in the Amazon rainforest, at a lower level than the woolly monkeys.

Capuchins eat mainly fruit, like the woolly monkeys but they also eat lots of insects and even small birds and mammals, if they can catch them!

Capuchins live in groups of up to 40 monkeys.

Sadly, capuchin monkeys are very popular as pets because they are so clever and are also used a lot in films and television, even though this means that the monkey has a sad and lonely life. It is likely that if you have ever seen a monkey in a film, it was a capuchin.

The reason that capuchins have their name is because they have a dark patch of fur on their heads.

In French, a "capuche" is a hat worn by monks which looks like the patch fur so this is where the name comes from! Look at the pictures and see if you can see the monkeys' "capuche"...

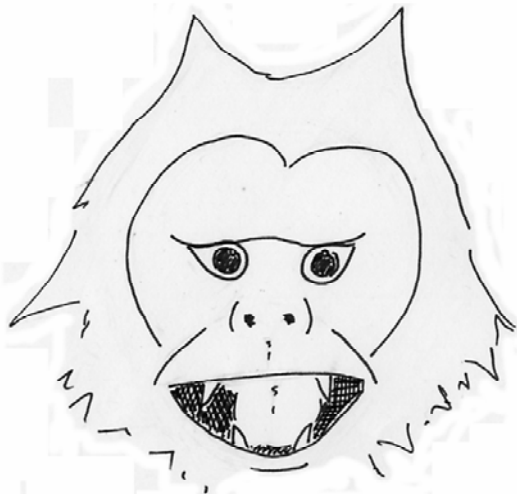
**Pictures:** (from top) **Gary:** a weeper capuchin, **Charlie Brown:** a black capped capuchin, both from the Monkey Sanctuary in Cornwall and **Stinky:** a white faced capuchin from Jungle Friends in Florida.



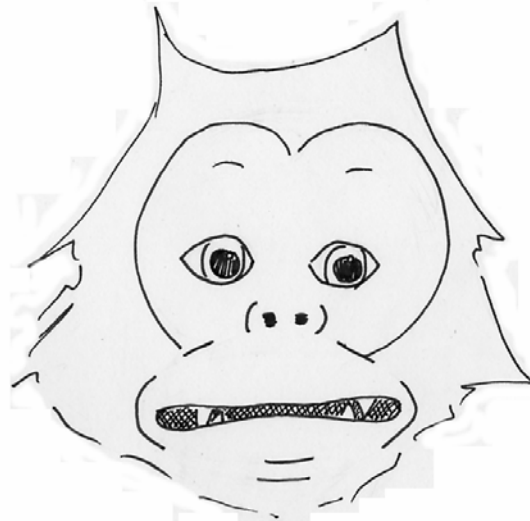
# Capuchin Conversations!



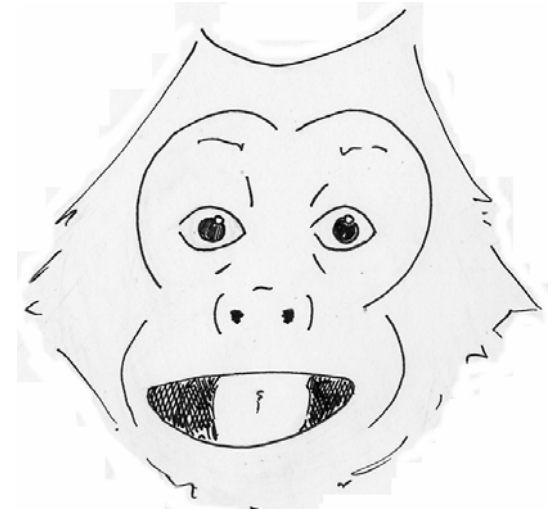
Because capuchins are so clever, they have many different sounds that they use to talk to each other. Here at the Monkey Sanctuary we are learning new sounds all the time and would need a whole book if we were to record all of them! As well as sounds, the capuchins will often use their faces to show other monkeys how they are feeling. Below are 3 that we see almost every day:



"Attach Face"



"Nervous Face"



"Play Face"

As well as noises and using their faces, capuchins also use their bodies to tell each other how they are feeling.

When they are trying to start a fight with another monkey, they will try to make the other monkeys stand close to them, sometimes with their arm round the shoulder to show that they are on the same "team".

If they are trying to make friends with another monkey, they will often make themselves very small by curling up and move very slowly so that they don't scare their new friend.

# Monkeys at the Sanctuary

Monkeys have been here at The Monkey Sanctuary since 1964 and all of them have come from the pet trade in some way, either because they were kept as pets themselves, or because their grandparents or great-grandparents were pets in years gone by.

The Monkey Sanctuary was created by Len Williams, a man who loved woolly monkeys and was worried about them being kept as pets as it meant that they died very young and didn't get a chance to spend any time with other monkeys.

## Lulu

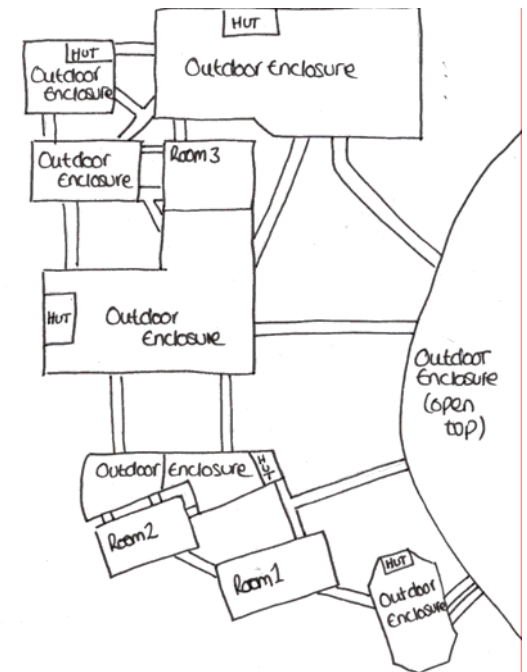
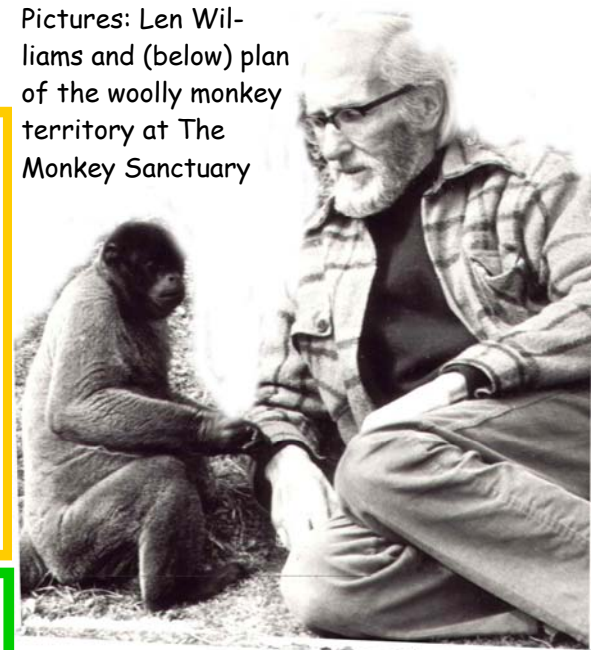
Lulu was the first woolly monkey ever to have a baby in captivity and was a very special monkey for us here at The Monkey Sanctuary.

Most pet monkeys would be taken from their families at a few weeks old but Lulu was 5 years old when she was taken from the rainforest, which meant she was nearly an adult and had had time to learn what life should be like living in a troop of monkeys. Len found her in a pet shop and rescued her to bring her back to Cornwall to live with our colony in the late 1950s.

Because Lulu spent her early years as a wild monkey, probably with a family and natural troop, she was able to teach the other members of the colony how to be monkeys and soon they all began having babies!

Lulu lived to the amazing age of 32, which is like a person living into their 90s!

Pictures: Len Williams and (below) plan of the woolly monkey territory at The Monkey Sanctuary



### Where do They Live?

The woolly monkeys and capuchin monkeys live in different areas of the site as they would try to fight each other if they lived together.

Both types of monkey have lots of different areas to live in and we can move them around so that they can meet different monkeys in different places each day. This is a way to make their lives more interesting and exciting as each enclosure has something a little bit different about it. The "Trees" enclosure has non roof so that the monkeys can climb to the very top of the huge beech trees in the centre, the "Gym" has lots of ropes and beams so the monkeys can work off their energy and "Room 4" is one the capuchins' favourite places to meet and play.

Each day every part of the monkeys' enclosures has to be cleaned. This means moving the monkeys from one space to another and locking them out of the space that is being cleaned so that we can safely go in. This can take up to 3 hours and sometimes we have to bribe monkeys to move with grapes!



### Monkey Menu

**8.30am** - Breakfast of 1kg of mixed fruit and veg (apples, leeks, celery, lettuce, chicory, pepper, cucumber, spring onion and other vegetables)

**12.00pm** - Baked apples - 1 per monkey

**2.00pm** - Lunch of more mixed fruit and veg, this time with pears instead of apples!

**3.30pm** - A handful of wild leaves are given to each monkey

**5.00pm** - Dinner of mixed fruit and veg; apples again this time!

**6.30pm** - A piece of boiled root vegetable (beetroot, parsnip, sweet potato and others) for each monkey

**8.00pm** - 1 piece of "Monkey Cake" for each monkey. This is a bit like "flapjack" but with fruit instead of sugar. The monkeys love it!



### Group Living

Monkeys in the wild live in troops of up to 40, but the monkeys here at the sanctuary are a little bit different.

The woolly monkeys all have family that they have lived with all of their lives but, because the female monkeys are no longer having babies, the group is getting smaller and smaller as years go by. This can be difficult as the male monkeys like to be in charge and we now have lots of male monkeys and just a few females. We sometimes have to keep male monkeys separated from each other so that they don't fight over who is strongest!

Because they were kept as pets before they came to live with us, the capuchin monkeys have never spent any time with their families and so have never really learned how to behave. Some of the monkeys that have come to us didn't even know how to climb properly.

We have to be very careful when a new capuchin starts to meet the rest of the group because they can be very frightened and sometimes even get into fights because they are not sure what to do. Because of this the capuchins normally have to live in smaller groups of just 2 or three monkeys and sometimes even on their own. It can take a long time for our new arrivals to fit in to the group.



# Problems and Solutions

## Space

In the wild, monkeys can travel from five to 15 kilometres per day so space is very important for them and a small cage just isn't enough.

To make sure the monkeys have lots of space to move around, our enclosures are large and high, allowing for as much movement as possible, and so that monkeys that are not the best of friends can avoid each other.

We fill their enclosures with ropes, beams and foliage so that they can climb and explore, and we also have to make sure that there is always more than one way in or out of the enclosure in case another monkey tries to chase them and block their exit.

Height is as important as the area of a space so enclosures are as tall as we can make them!

## Weather

The weather in England is a lot colder than in the Amazon and so we have to make sure that the monkeys don't get too cold. We give them indoor spaces with heaters so that they can warm up when the weather is bad.

There is also much less sunshine in the UK than in South America. The sun provides Vitamin D which helps to keep bones strong and so we have to give the monkeys extra Vitamin D to make sure they stay fit and healthy.

## Boredom

Because monkeys are so clever, they can get bored very easily and life in the UK is not as interesting as life in the rainforest. Because of this we have to make sure that we keep the monkeys busy by using what we call "enrichment". Look at the next page for how...

## Illness

The monkeys can pass on illness to us and we can pass on illness to the monkeys so we have to make sure that we always wear protective clothing if we are working closely with them



This is a "nut puzzle". The nut is placed by a keeper into the maze through a hole on the outside that the monkeys cannot reach.

The capuchins are clever enough to guide a nut through the maze of wheels and slopes, to the hole at the bottom, from which they can take their reward!



This is one of our capuchin enclosures. It is full of interesting and exciting things for the monkeys to explore and discover. We hide their food in baskets and boxes so that they have to spend time finding it.

Favourite games include swinging the buoy, jumping in baskets and hiding in hammocks.



Monkeys sometimes play just to have fun.

This young woolly monkey discovered that a coffee pot makes a great "gong" if you put it on your head and hit the top.

This "drawbridge" is another puzzle for the capuchins. Food is put into the holes in the wood, out-of-reach unless the monkeys pull the drawbridge up using the rope. It didn't take long for the clever capuchins to figure this one out!



# Monkeys as Pets

Keeping a monkey as a pet in the UK is legal and it is thought that there are about 3,000 in this country.

It might sound like fun to have a monkey as a pet but it means that the monkey is taken from its mum at just a few weeks old and never sees her again. Many pet monkeys die at a very young age because they are not suited to life in this country. If they do live until adulthood, they become very strong and dangerous and, no matter how much they have been trained, can seriously injure their owners.

## Where do They Live?

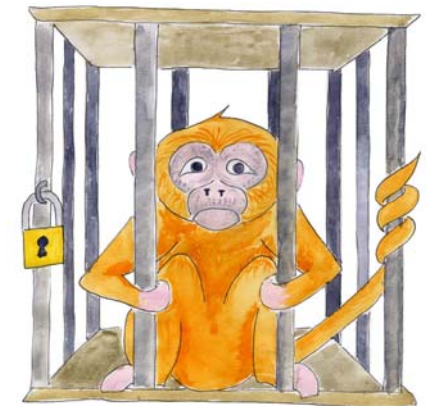
The monkeys that have arrived here at the sanctuary have been kept in small cages, caravans, and garden sheds to name a few places.

Because in the wild these monkeys would travel many miles a day, it has meant that, during their lives as pets, our rescued monkeys had become very bored and now show what are called "stereotypical behaviours". This means that they behave in a certain way which is very unhealthy. Some of them pull out their fur, other rock backwards and forwards and some pace around their enclosures for hours on end.

## Monkey Menu

Because capuchins will eat almost anything, we have found that ex-pet monkeys have had a strange diet. One of our monkeys was fed jam sandwiches, crisps and even given cigarettes to chew. Another was so overweight that he couldn't climb without finding it hard to breathe.

Most of the monkeys come to us with teeth problems too.





# Problems and More Problems

## Attack!

In the wild, when a monkey reaches the age of around 5, they start to wonder if they might be able to lead their troop one day and be the boss. To find out they start to challenge the other members of their colony to fights to see if they are stronger. If they win, then they try the monkey who is a little stronger and so on, until they lose a fight and find out where they belong in the "pecking order".

When a monkey is kept a pet, they do the same thing, only they don't have any other monkeys to challenge, and so they challenge their owners. This almost always leads to the owner being bitten and badly hurt.

## HOW MUCH?

Most vets will never have treated a monkey before and so if a monkey gets sick there is either nowhere for the owner to take it or, if they can find a vet that will treat it, the cost can be thousands of pounds. Some pet monkeys never see a vet for their whole lives because of this. All too often, these monkeys sadly die at a very young age.

## A Lifetime's Work

Not many people know that monkeys can live into their 40s and need lots of care, every single day of the year. Most monkeys are rehomed many times in their life because their owners can no longer care for them.

## Lonely Life

Imagine being taken away from your family and friends and never seeing another person for your whole life—this is what life is like for many pet monkeys. Even if they are given the best possible care, nothing that any pet owner can offer a monkey is as good as their life would be in the rainforest with their own troop.

The Monkey Sanctuary Trust would like to see the law changed so that it is illegal to have a pet monkey in the UK so that no more monkeys have to live sad and lonely lives in this country.

# Activities



## Write a Monkey Story

Use your imagination to write a story about a monkey.

Your story could be about a wild monkey, living in the rainforest, a pet monkey living in the UK or a monkey at The Monkey Sanctuary.

Make your story as exciting and interesting as possible, and remember to give it a beginning, a middle and an end.

## Draw, Paint or Make a Monkey

Included in your pack, you have lots of templates to create your very own monkey.

Make a finger puppet, mask, door hanger or even a monkey mobile to hang from your classroom ceiling!

You can choose to create your own monkey too. Why not draw or paint a picture of a monkey in the rainforest or make a collage. You could make a giant monkey as a display working as a whole class.

**Get creative!**

## Act Out a Monkey Drama

You have learned lots already about monkeys in the wild—why not create a monkey drama as a class?

You know all about the faces and noises that the monkeys make to communicate to each other and so why not make a rule that all actors in your drama can only speak and behave like monkeys?

You can act out a day-in-the-life in the rainforest complete with monkey predators—some of you could play harpy eagles and some could play jaguars and try to attack the monkeys!

Why not create a set for your play—you could make a rainforest set and act out your drama on stage!

Once again, the most important thing is to use your imagination and be as creative as you can!

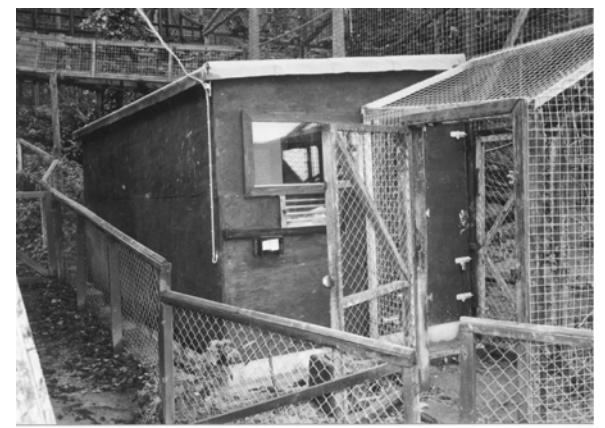
## Design a Monkey Enclosure

In this activity you have to design your own enclosure for the monkeys here at The Monkey Sanctuary!

You can decide whether the enclosure will be for woolly monkeys or capuchin monkeys and design it using the things you have already learned about our monkeys, and how they live. The following points are to help you with your ideas:

1. The monkeys move around a lot and so need as much space as possible
2. As well as outdoor space, the monkeys need some shelter to keep warm and dry
3. The monkeys prefer to spend time high up rather than low down. Think about this when designing both inside and outside spaces
4. There must be lots of interesting things to keep the monkeys from getting bored
5. **USE YOUR IMAGINATION!** To create a great monkey space you have to think like a monkey—what would you like to see in the enclosures?

Look below at some of the pictures of our enclosures here at The Monkey Sanctuary.



### Make a pet trade poster

You have learned lots of reasons in this pack why it is not a good idea to keep a monkey as a pet so why not make a poster to help teach other people what you have learned?

First of all, think about what you want to tell people in your poster and then think about the best, boldest and brightest way of showing your message.

You can use pictures and words to create your poster.

Why not make a display in your school with all your completed posters on show?