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SKILL SHARPENERS

Critical Thinking

Connecting School and Home

Grade
3



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SKILL SHARPENERS

Critical Thinking

Grade 3

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Practicing Critical Thinking Skills

Critical thinking comes naturally to young children. They learn autonomy through exploration, observe their environment using logic and reasoning, try new things, and think creatively. As children grow and enter an academic setting, some of their natural curiosity and problem-solving instincts are not engaged as often as they could be. This practice book encourages children to “think about their thinking” through creative, analytical, and evaluative tasks.

Read All About It

Read the selection to your child.

Discuss how the illustrations help your child better understand the topic. Then, if your child is able, have him or her read the selection to you. After reading the selection, discuss how the topic relates to your child's life.



Tell What You Know

The activities on these pages provide opportunities for children to connect their knowledge and opinions to the topic. Encourage your child to think about his or her experiences and support his or her curiosity by discussing the questions and topics together.



Critical Thinking Activities

The critical thinking activities are designed to engage children in application, analytical, and evaluative tasks. The cross-curricular activities present science, math, social studies, and language arts content.

Word Problems

Wendy went to the zoo with her mom, her 11-year-old brother, and her 7-year-old sister. The admission to the zoo was \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children. How much was the admission for the family?

Work Space

Answer: \$ _____

According to the sign, the adult giraffe is 20 feet tall. A zoologist told Wendy that the young giraffe is half as tall as its mom. How tall is the young giraffe?

Work Space

Answer: _____

The oldest zoo in the United States is the Central Park Zoo in New York City. The zoo opened in 1859.

1. How many years had the Central Park Zoo been open in 1978?
Answer: _____

2. How many years had it been open in the year 2015?
Answer: _____

Wendy's brother likes to count all the legs of the animals in a pair. He counted six legs. How many faces were in the pair?

Work Space

Answer: _____

Ocean Depths

The chart below shows the area and average depth of four of Earth's oceans.

Ocean	Area (in square miles)	Average Depth (in feet)
Arctic	5,325,700	2,407
Atlantic	33,147,000	11,739
Indian	28,330,000	12,518
Pacific	63,146,300	12,925

Use the chart to complete the following questions.

1. List the oceans in order from the largest area to the smallest area.

2. What is the difference between the largest area and the smallest area?

3. List the oceans in order from the greatest depth to the smallest depth.

4. What is the difference between the greatest depth and the smallest depth?

Art Projects and Hands-on Activities

The art projects and hands-on activities provide children with opportunities to use critical thinking skills to create. Encourage your child to tap into his or her creativity and innovation and to have fun with the hands-on activities. After your child completes each project, discuss the steps taken to create it. Encourage your child to explain what he or she enjoyed most and why.

My Family Tree

Create a family tree that tells the names of the people in your family.

What You Need:

- scissors
- a pencil or pen
- the tree on page 63
- the boxes below
- a list of family members' names

What You Do:

- Write your brother's and sister's names, your parent's names (including the last name that your mom grew up with) your grandparents' names.
- Write each family member's name in one of the boxes below. Cut out the boxes.
- Carefully remove the family tree on page 63 from the book. Glue the names of your family members to the family tree. You and your siblings will be on the bottom row. Your parents are in the row above you, and your grandparents are in the row above them. Look at the example for help.

THE EARTH NEEDS PLANTS

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Facts About Monkeys

Read about monkeys, then answer the questions on the following pages.

Whoop! Whoop! Whoop! What is that loud sound? It's the call of the howler monkey. The loud call can be heard from as far as three miles away. The howler is one of about 250 different kinds of monkeys living in the forests, in the mountains, and on the grasslands around the world.

Monkeys have large brains, long tails, hands, eyes that look forward, and feet that can grasp tree branches. Most New World monkeys (those that live in Central and South America) have prehensile tails. This means their tails can be used to hang on to tree branches. Most Old World monkeys

(those that live in Africa and Asia) have tails, but they are not prehensile.

Monkeys come in many sizes and shapes. The smallest monkey is the pygmy marmoset.

It is about five inches long and weighs about four ounces. The largest monkey is the male mandrill. It is over three feet tall and weighs about 75 pounds.

Most monkeys eat plant parts such as nuts, fruits, seeds, flowers, and leaves. They also eat animals such as insects, spiders, and birds' eggs. Those living near water also hunt for crabs, clams, and small

water animals. Some monkeys use large branches to kill food, such as snakes. Capuchin monkeys even use tools to get their food. They smash nuts with rocks. They poke small twigs or branches into holes to pull out insects.

Monkeys are social creatures. They live in groups called troops. The troop works together to care for their young and to protect one another. The strongest male in the troop is the leader.

Think about what you have learned about monkeys. What is one way New World monkeys and Old World monkeys are alike? How are they different?



Monkeys

How would you describe a monkey to someone who has never seen one?

Use the letters in **MONKEYS** to make a word for each clue.

used to unlock _____

dollars and cents _____

opposite of no _____

before two _____

comes from fire _____

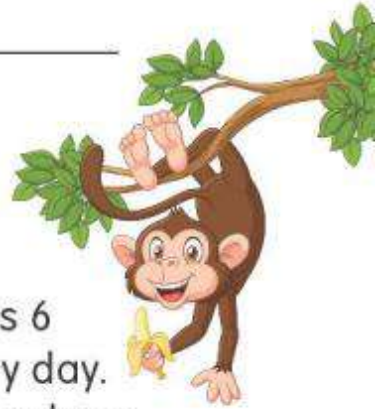
Each monkey at the zoo eats 6 bananas every day. There are 7 monkeys. How many bananas will be needed for...

1 day? _____

2 days? _____

4 days? _____

1 week? _____



Write this sentence correctly.

Matt saw 7 monkies at the zoo.

Compare

Think About It

How are monkeys the same as humans? How are they different?
Fill in the chart with 3 ways for each.

Same	Different

Jane went to Africa to see monkeys. She saw 3 fewer monkeys on the second day than she did on the first day. She saw 6 monkeys on the third day. She saw twice as many monkeys on the first day as she did on the third day. How many monkeys did Jane see on each day? How many did she see in all?

First day: _____

Second day: _____

Third day: _____

In all: _____

What is this?



Animal Idioms

Fill in the blank with the name of an animal from the box to complete each idiom.

1. _____ in your pants
2. _____ in my throat
3. as blind as a _____
4. Has the _____ got your tongue?
5. wouldn't hurt a _____
6. so hungry, I could eat a _____
7. more fun than a barrel of _____
8. as quiet as a _____
9. a can of _____
10. a _____'s-eye view
11. go on a wild _____ chase
12. the straw that broke the _____'s back

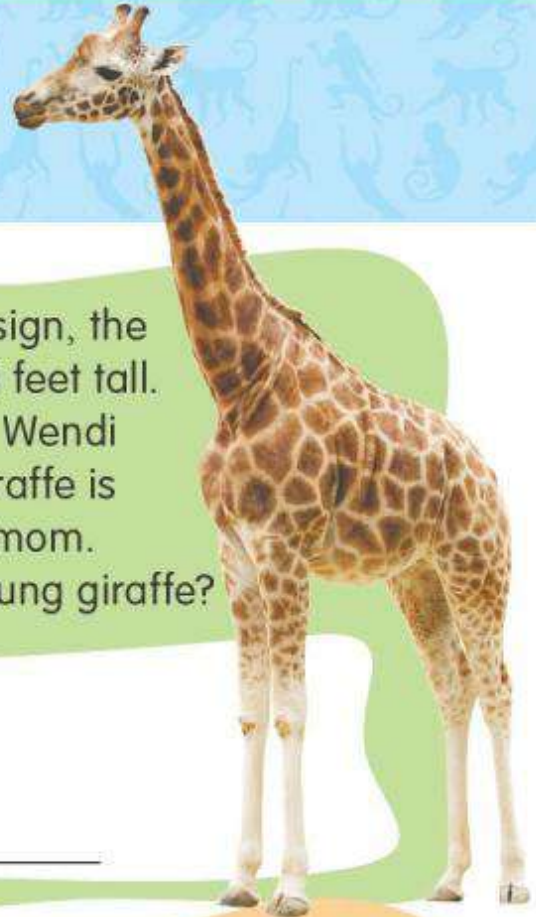
Word Box

fly	ants
bat	goose
cat	bird
horse	camel
frog	monkeys
worms	mouse



Compute

Word Problems



Wendi went to the zoo with her mom, her 11-year-old brother, and her 7-year-old sister. The admission to the zoo was \$14.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children. How much was the admission for the family?

Work Space:

Answer: \$ _____



According to the sign, the adult giraffe is 20 feet tall. A zookeeper told Wendi that the young giraffe is half as tall as its mom. How tall is the young giraffe?

Work Space:

Answer: _____

The oldest zoo in the United States is the Central Park Zoo in New York City. The zoo opened in 1864.

1. How many years had the Central Park Zoo been open in 1978?

Answer: _____

2. How many years had it been open in the year 2015?

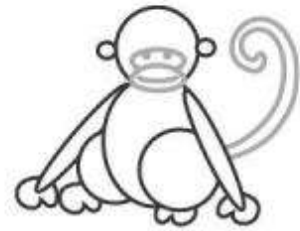
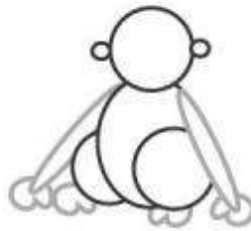
Answer: _____

Wendi's brother likes to count all the legs of the animals in a pen. He counted 44 fox legs. How many foxes were in the pen?

Work Space:

Make a Monkey

Follow the directions to draw a monkey.
Then color your monkey and fill in the blanks.



This monkey lives in the _____.

It uses its _____ and _____ to move in trees.

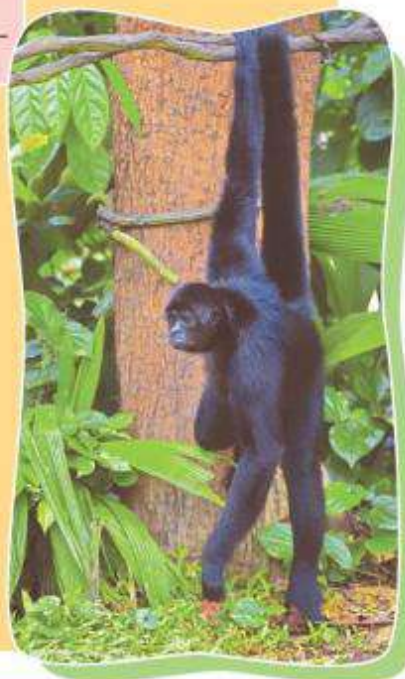
A monkey can _____.

Solve

Monkey Words

Monkey begins with **MON**. Each of the answers to the clues also contains **MON**. Use the clues to complete the words. If a letter has a number below it, write that letter at the bottom of the page to find the kind of monkey that you see.

expensive gem	_____ <u>3</u> _____ MON _____
popular board game	MON _____ <u>2</u> _____ <u>8</u> _____ <u>12</u>
rare or unusual	_____ <u>9</u> _____ _____ <u>7</u> MON
scary creature	MON _____ _____ _____ <u>6</u>
12 in a year	MON _____ _____ <u>1</u>
type of nut	_____ _____ MON <u>4</u>
Japanese robe	_____ <u>10</u> _____ MON _____
coins and bills	MON _____ <u>5</u> _____
yellow fruit	_____ _____ MON <u>11</u>



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Monkey Snack



Complete the paragraph.

Monkey Snack

Last week at the zoo, I saw a monkey eat a banana. This is what it did.

First, _____

Then, _____

Finally, it _____

Maybe I'll eat one myself!



Pretend you are going to eat an orange. Write a topic sentence. Give at least three steps telling what you will do.

Generate

Word Chains

To make a word chain, each word must begin with the same letter that the last word ends with. Finish the word chain for each category.



Example:

Animals

monkey

yak

kangaroo

ostrich



Kinds of Foods

pizza

asparagus

Places

Oregon

New York

Animals

wolf

flamingo

It's Feeding Time!

Tyson enjoys watching the zookeepers feed the animals. The feeding schedule for some of the zoo animals is given below. Design a schedule for Tyson so that he can see as many animals being fed as possible.

Remember:

- He wants to see each animal being fed for the full time.
- He can not see more than one animal at a time.



Penguins	9:00 to 9:30 a.m.
Seals	9:15 to 9:30 a.m.
Tigers	10:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Lions	10:00 to 10:30 a.m.
Bears	10:30 to 10:45 a.m.
Hippos	10:30 to 11:00 a.m.
Elephants	10:45 to 11:00 a.m.
Monkeys	11:00 to 11:30 a.m.
Apes	11:00 to 11:15 a.m.
Anteaters	11:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Create

Monkey Paper Chains

What You Do:

1. Remove page 19 from the book. Color the monkeys.
2. Cut the two patterns apart.
3. Carefully fold one of the monkey patterns like an accordion, along the black lines. The monkey must be on top of the folded paper.
4. Cut out the yellow shaded sections.
5. Open the paper to see a row of monkeys.
6. Follow the same steps to make the other monkey chain.
7. Refold the two chains. Glue them to page 21.





Glue this chain to page 21

Glue this chain to page 21

