

PENSCYNOR Wildlife Park



Information Spotter Pack

Background Information

In 1831 a man called CHARLES DARWIN set out to make a voyage of discovery on a ship called 'The Beagle'. Darwin was sure that animals all over the world had changed their appearance to suit the places in which they lived - he called this evolution. When his expedition reached the Galapagos Islands Darwin made an important discovery: he found that although the same species (kind) of birds lived on all the islands, each species was slightly different. For example, on one of the islands the finches had thick beaks for cracking nuts; on another the finches had beaks which were perfect to eat the many berries and fruits which were there. Darwin felt sure that these birds had changed to suit the place in which they lived. He said that not only beaks had changed, but also feet and feathers too.



Darwin showed that over millions of years creatures have changed to survive. They have changed to find food, shelter, and protection from their enemies.

The animals at Penscynor Wildlife Park show how animals have evolved (changed). Using this Information Spotter Pack can you work out just how they have changed? Use the picture called 'Adaptation of Primates to their life in trees', and the picture called 'Beaks and Feet' to help you.

TROPICAL RAIN FORESTS OR JUNGLES

There are tropical rain forests in South America, Africa, Asia, North East Australia and on some islands of the Pacific Ocean.

The temperatures are very high all year round in these forests, and there is a lot of rain. Because it is always hot and wet, the plants and trees grow very quickly.

In a tropical rain forest, the plants grow on different layers:-

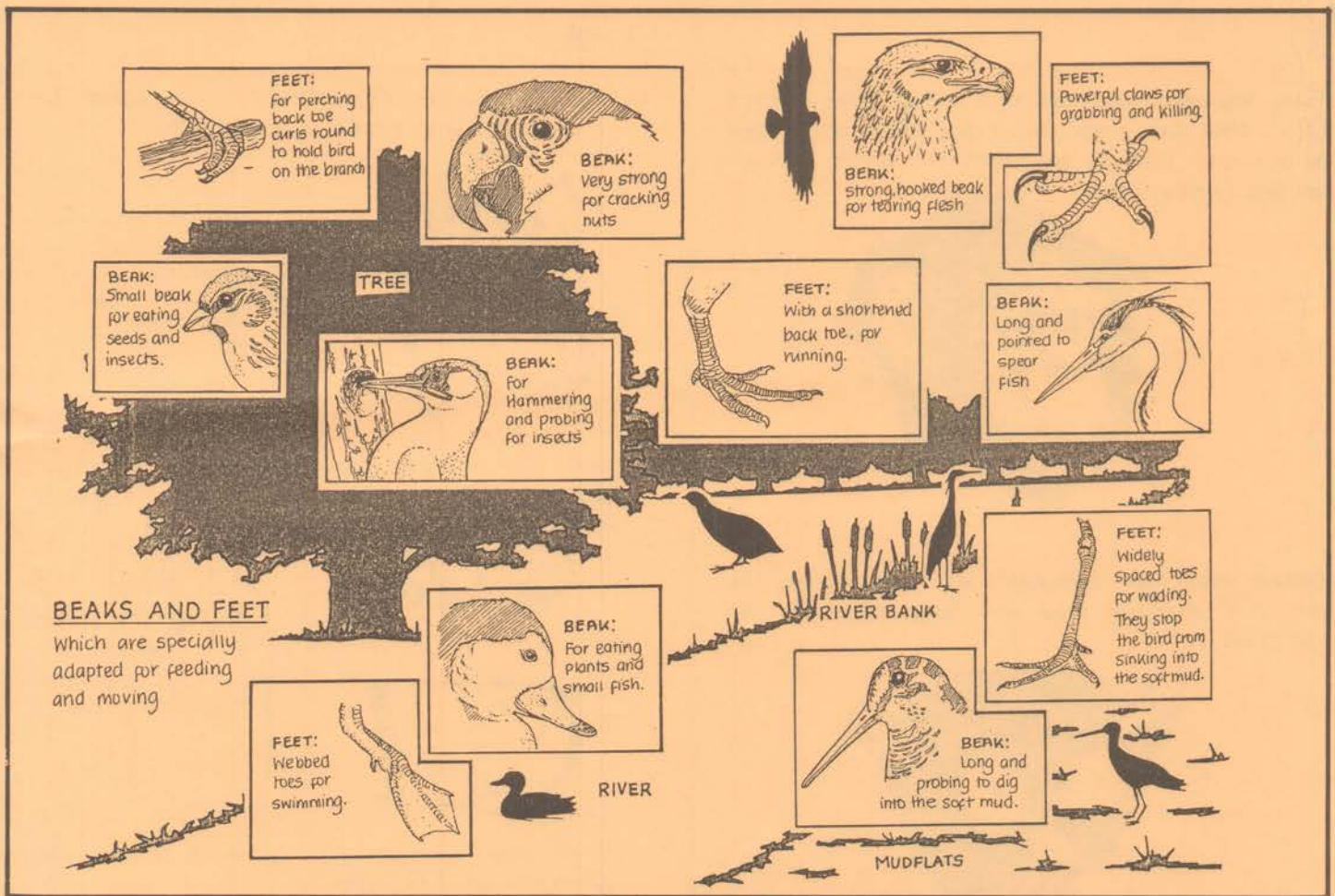
1. The tallest trees are called 'emergents' and grow up to 40 metres high above all the other trees.
2. Most of the trees grow in the 'canopy' layer which makes a roof over the rain forest. The leaves and branches of the trees touch each other, and very little light gets through.
3. The next layer is made up of smaller trees which grow up towards the light.
4. As so little light is able to get through the canopy layer, few plants actually grow on the forest floor except for some ferns and shrubs.

The mammals and birds which live in a tropical rain forest have developed special features to suit their life here. Most creatures live in the canopy layer where food is more easily found. Animals such as monkeys are able to move from tree to tree using their arms and legs. Many birds are brightly coloured to attract a mate while others are coloured so they are camouflaged amongst the trees.



There are hundreds of species of creatures living in each tree in the rain forest. Every creature is able to find enough food to live and to feed its young.

Some insects even eat the bark of trees. These insects are eaten by birds and small mammals, which may then be the prey for larger carnivores, such as jaguars and birds of prey.



USE THIS PICTURE TO WORK OUT THE KIND OF PLACES IN WHICH THE BIRDS AT PENSYCYNOR LIVE IN THE WILD

CONSERVATION

There are many stories of how animals have become extinct - they had survived for millions of years, but because something changed their 'home' in quite a short time entire species were removed from our planet. For example, during the last century the Great Auk (a penguin-like bird) was hunted by fishermen in the North Sea, and their eggs were stolen. Soon there were very few left and the eggs of the last few birds were smashed by hunters. The Great Auk had become extinct.

Today, there are many animals which have so few of their kind alive that they too are in danger of becoming extinct. Some of the animals you have seen at Pencyrnor Wildlife Park are among those which are in danger.

In this country many zoos and wildlife parks are successfully breeding creatures whose lives are threatened in their natural surroundings. Through their education programmes the wildlife parks allow people to learn about such animals and the need for conservation. Places such as Pencyrnor are a 'safe' home for many kinds of animals that would otherwise face extinction. In the future, when perhaps their natural environments may be safe again, many of these species can be put back into the wild.

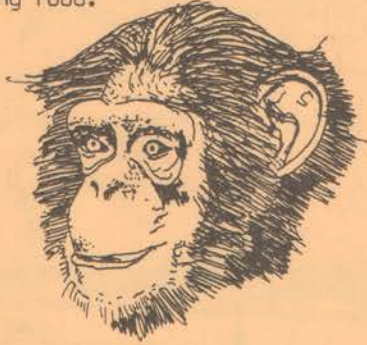


THE GREAT AUK

THE ADAPTATION OF PRIMATES TO THEIR LIFE IN TREES

EYES

Monkeys and apes developed eyes which faced forward so that they can judge distances, sizes and shapes more easily. This is important for moving through trees and finding food.



Primates which are nocturnal and hunt during the night have enormous eyes and large ears to hear their prey.

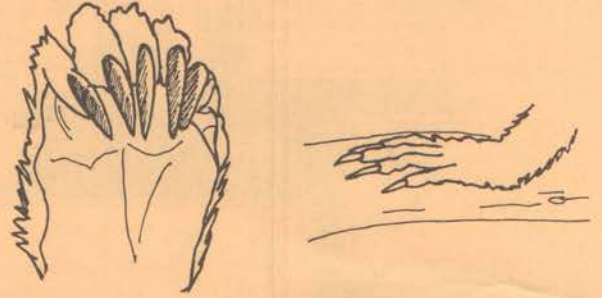


TAILS

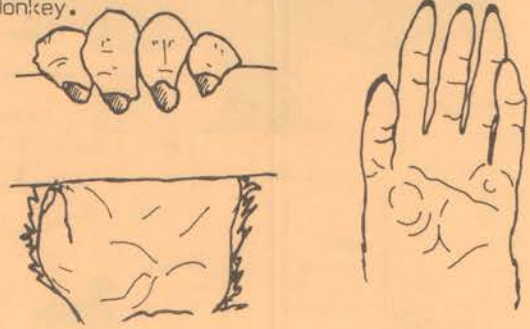
Used for balance and support when moving through the trees. Primates which spend most of their time on the ground do not have tails. For example, gorillas and chimpanzees. Some South America primates have a 'prehensile' tail, which they can use as an extra hand to hold on to branches.

HANDS

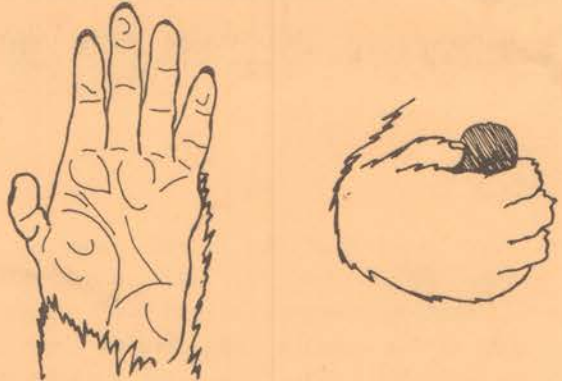
1. Eg. Marmosets: Five fingers with claws for a good hold when running along branches.



2. Hands for swinging from branches and climbing. Finger pads for a firm grip, for example Woolly Monkey.

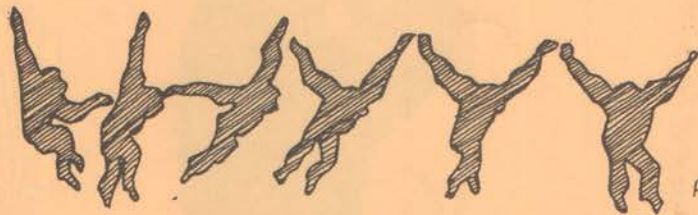


3. Thumb able to touch all the other fingers and can grasp small objects.

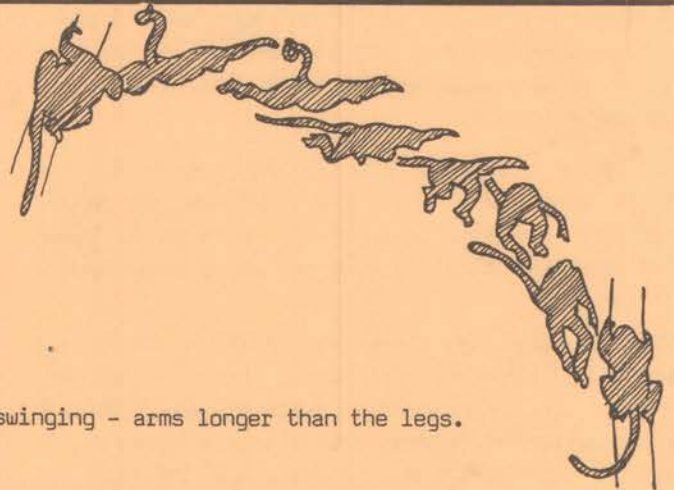


LOCOMOTION

Tree hopping - legs stronger and longer than the arms.



Arm swinging - arms longer than the legs.



Walking and running - either along branches or on the ground. Arms and legs are about the same length.

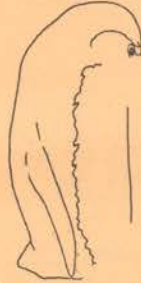


SPOTTER SHEET

AS YOU GO AROUND PENSRYNOR WILDLIFE PARK TRY TO FIND THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS.

STOP 1 HUMMBOLDT'S PENGUIN

1. Finish this picture by adding: its feet, its markings and its beak.



2. Watch the bird swim under water and jump onto the side of the pool. What two clues can you find on the bird to show it well suited to a life in water?

(i) _____

(ii) _____

STOP 2 THE TROUT POND

3. Where do these birds come from? By the side of the place where the bird comes from write the letter shown.

Mallard	A	North America
Mandarin Duck	B	Africa
Carolina Duck	C	East Asia
Ruddy Shelduck	D	Europe

STOP 3 THE SPOONBILL

4. Find two clues to show that this bird lives and eats by water.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

STOP 4 GIBBON ISLAND

5. Carefully watch the gibbon move about the island. Does it:

TREE HOP ARM SWING WALK OR RUN

(See the primate chart to help you).

6. WHAT AM I?

Usually I am white, but I am black. I have a red beak. I have a long neck.

I am a _____

STOP 5 THE SEA LIONS

7. Watch the sea lions swim underwater. Describe how they swim: _____

8. Look carefully at their ears. Why do you think they are shaped like this? _____

STOP 6 SQUIRREL MONKEY ISLAND

9. Draw the Squirrel Monkey. What colour is it?

How does it get around?

TREE HOP ARM SWING WALK OR RUN

STOP 7 THE MARMOSET HOUSE

10. Using the letters in the LETTER JUMBLE work out what these animals are. Which countries do they come from?

Animal	Country	Do you think it hunts at night	
		YES	NO
_ O _ L _ _ _ ' _ _ MON _ _ _ _			
R _ _ _ _ _ _ _ ED T _ M _ _ IN			
_ M _ _ R _ _ _ _ _ M _ _ _ _			
_ I _ V _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ T			

LETTER JUMBLE

G I Y A O T

K E R N L

D S H P M

Use Primate Chart

STOP 8 PARMA WALLABY

11. How does this animal move about? _____

12. What does it use its tail for?
 (i) _____
 (ii) _____



STOP 9 THE WALK THROUGH AVIARY

13. Can you find a bird with these letters in its name? Then fill in the chart for each bird.

	S _____ Hornbill	P _____ Lory	G _____ Ph _____ Lory
Country it comes from			
Draw its beak			
Draw its feet			

STOP 10 THE SHORT CLAWED OTTER

14. Draw the clawed otter.
15. How do its feet help you work out where it lives in the wild? _____

16. Stand and watch this otter. Write down four words to describe it.

1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	4. _____

STOP 11 THE FLAMINGO

17. Finish this picture of the flamingo.

18. Using the beaks and feet chart describe where you think they would feed in the wild:

STOP 12 EAGLE OWL

19. Write down four words to describe this bird.

1. _____	3. _____
2. _____	4. _____

20. Using the beaks and feet chart work out what it eats: _____
21. In the wild which country does it come from?

STOP 13 COLOBUS MONKEY

22. Draw the tail of this monkey.

23. Using the primate chart describe:

Its hands	
How it moves about in the trees	

STOP 14 THE BIRD GARDEN

24. Can you find the name of six birds in this word square.

T O U R A C O P
 O G H L M O G H
 U C V T S C H E
 C E F P L K G A
 A S M A C A W S
 N V H J K T L A
 R C A R A O Z N
 M Y N A H O P T