



Spot the Difference: Monkeys and Apes

On SCOPE's Primates episode, Bonnie visited Adelaide Zoo to see if she could spot the difference between a monkey and an ape! Next time you visit a zoo, see a picture of a primate in a book, or watch an animal program, see if you can Spot the Difference as well!

What you need:

A copy of this list for every animal you want to look at

What to do:

1. Write the animal name in the box below.
2. Look at the animal and answer the questions by ticking 'yes' or 'no'.
3. Turn over to the next page to find out if you are looking at a monkey or an ape.

Animal name:	Yes	No
1. Does it have a tail?		
2. Does it swing through the trees?		
3. Does it run along branches?		
4. Does it spend most of the time in trees?		
5. Does it spend most of the time on the ground?		
6. Does it have arms that are longer than its legs?		
7. Does it have arms that are the same length or shorter than its legs?		
8. Can it walk on two legs?		
9. Can it use tools and problem solve?		

If you answered these four questions with 'yes' you must be looking at a monkey!

1. Does it have a tail?

Monkeys have tails that they use like a fifth limb to help them grasp branches and balance themselves.

3. Does it run along branches?

Monkeys climb rather than swing through trees.

4. Does it spend most of the time in trees?

To avoid predators, monkeys usually hang out in the tree tops.

7. Does it have arms that are as short as or shorter than its legs?

Monkeys have a different skeleton to apes and have both shorter arms and a longer torso.

If you answered these five questions with 'yes' you must be looking at an ape!

2. Does it swing through the trees?

Apes swing from branch to branch to move around their habitat. The structure of their shoulder bones allow their arms to move around with a wide range of motion.

5. Does it spend most of the time on the ground?

While apes might make nests in trees, they generally stay close to the ground.

6. Does it have arms that are longer than its legs?

Apes have long arms that help them move around, grasp branches, and swing through trees.

8. Can it walk on two legs?

Apes can either use both their arms and legs to move around, or walk on two legs. Animals that can do this are called bi-pedal, which means two feet.

9. Can it use tools and problem solve?

Apes are very intelligent, and have been known to use tools. Some species can even learn to communicate with humans using sign language.