

The Monkey King

A Breakfast Serials story

Breakfast Serials
Good Books Unbound

To commemorate International Literacy Day on September 8, and encourage reading in the home, Funday Times plans to launch a serialized story, offered by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) and Breakfast Serials Publishing Company.

Funday Times readers can read the first part of the 17-part serial next Sunday, September 9, the day following International Literacy Day, a United Nations initiative to promote universal literacy.

The 17-part story of the Chinese fable, 'The Monkey King' is written by Ji-li Jiang and illustrated by Hui Hui Su-Kennedy. The story

is a partial adaptation of one of China's favourite classics, 'Journey to the West'. In this serial version, we learn how the monkey is born and becomes king of the monkey clan. The story goes on to relate how in his search for immortality he alternately charms and annoys the Jade Emperor, the ruler of the universe, and what happens when he finally encounters the Great Buddha.

In short it is a fairy tale of triumphs over adversity as Monkey King becomes more human even as he becomes more god-like. His magical powers, his cleverness, as well as his mischief and fearless rebellion

against authority make him a favourite character for children all over the world.

Along with the story, we also publish an Activity Guide, donated by 'Use the News Foundation,' which would encourage the participation of parents and teachers.

"The serial story is making a comeback because it is a powerful tool to encourage a love of reading. It is also a lot of fun, and by offering a teaching guide we make it easy for parents and teachers to use the series to build reading skills," says Aralynn McMane, Director of Young Readership Development of the Paris-based WAN.

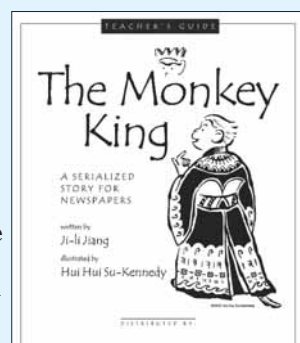
Lesson Plans in the Activity Guide

The chapter lessons are divided into five parts: **Just the Facts** are literal-level questions. Students will find the answer stated in one sentence in the chapter being examined.

Between the Lines questions require students to make connections between information that appears in two or more sentences. **Let's Discuss** questions encourage students to think about what is happening in the story. One question invites students to make a prediction about what is going to happen in the next chapter.

In the Real World allows students to make connections between the events and topics in the chapter and the real world through newspaper activities.

Vocabulary words are identified in each chapter. Teachers may use instructional vocabulary activities as they choose, such as for identifying phonic elements, using root words and affixes, or determining meaning from context.



Games

This guide includes questions and puzzles related to character names and numbers in the story, a crossword puzzle and a word search.

Acknowledgements

This teacher's guide was created by the 'Use The News Foundation' in collaboration with Breakfast Serials. It was developed by Dr. Sherrye Dee Garrett of Use The News.

The Monkey King is syndicated by **Breakfast Serials**, an organization founded by Avi to promote reading by providing good children's literature for newspapers.



World Association of Newspapers



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Monkeys in the real world

By Patricia Valicenti
Sardine Features

Monkeys have been revered in myth and popular culture for millennia, but today's real monkeys are having a hard time even surviving.

In fact, 25 percent of the world's 650 species and subspecies of monkeys and other primates, are threatened with extinction, according to a report by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

"More and more, mankind's closest living relatives are being cornered into shrinking areas of tropical forests," said Russell A. Mittermeier, the President of Conservation International and a prominent primatologist upon the release of the report in 2005.

The problem is widespread. The 25 most endangered species noted in the report included the brown spider monkey of Colombia, the Cross River gorilla of Nigeria and Cameroon and the golden-headed langur of Vietnam.

Humans are destroying the forests in which monkeys can live, as more and more people seek firewood, farmlands and natural resources. Hunting for bush meat and the pet trade are also factors.

Poverty contributes to the problem as the forest provides impoverished families with their only source of firewood.

Monkeys play a key role in the health of forest ecosystems. They disperse fruit seeds and other foods

agreements remains a problem.

"Southeast Asia's primates are subject to relentless poaching because of the profits to be made from the illegal trade," said Chantal Elkin, man-

The tiny handsome ebony black Goeldi monkeys of the Amazon live in family groups of two generations of offspring, travelling through the jungle together. This species was discovered in 1904. The Goeldi has only one baby and is particularly threatened by habitat destruction for cattle ranching.

they consume helping to support a wide range of plant and animal life that make up our planet's forests.

And they are remarkably like us. In a number of countries, children can count on a monkey as an early playmate.

Monkeys have a great gift for grabbing and grasping objects with their hands and feet. They have five toes and five fingers, except for the spider monkey which has only four fingers.

International treaties aim to stem the tide in illegal buying and selling of wildlife. Support is increasing. The groundbreaking 1973 Washington Convention grew from 23 supporting countries at the start to 121 countries today.

Enforcing such

ager of the Threatened Species Program in Conservation International's Center for Applied Biodiversity Science.

Captive breeding programs too, can maintain the genetic diversity of monkey species although re-introduction into the wild remains a difficult issue.

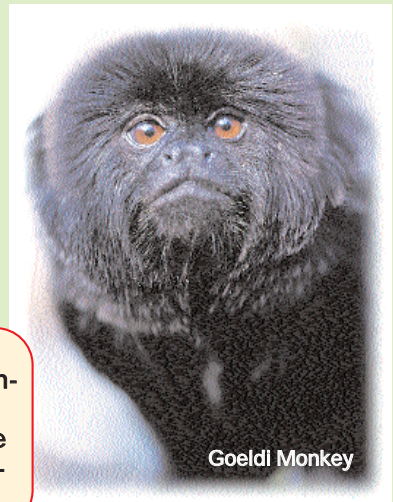
"It is the duty of good zoos internationally to try not to allow species to become extinct," explains Stewart Muir the founder of the tiny Shaldon Wildlife Trust on the

southwest coast of Great Britain. The Trust is recognized internationally as one of the finest breeding centres for rare and endangered small mammals.

Over 400 animals have been born here, including lemurs, saki monkeys and tiny primates like pygmy marmosets.

In a word...

PRIMATE – A mammal characterized by refined development of the hands and feet, a shortened snout, and a large brain. A "primatologist" studies everything about monkeys and other primates.



Goeldi Monkey



Spider Monkeys

Photos:
Francis Apesteguy
Sardine Features

Columbian Spider Monkeys live in undisturbed areas of high tropical forests of Columbia. They move through the trees using a hand over hand movement known as semibrachiation. They are also excellent climbers. This species is listed as vulnerable in the wild by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.