



The Orangutan Project – Education Program

Life of Mammals

Introduction

This information pack is designed to work in conjunction with DVD 4 ‘Food for Thought’ from the award-winning documentary series “The Life of Mammals”, David Attenborough. This information pack contains worksheets and questions that can be posed to your class in order to promote discussion and awareness on key developmental milestones in the life of an orangutan.

For more information please visit our www.orangutan.org.au/schools

Target Audience

Schools	Years	Ages	Topics	Material Required
High School (Secondary)	10	15		
	9	14		
	8	13		
	7	12	Animals imitating human behaviour	www.orangutan.org.au/schools Life of Mammals Worksheet DVD: David Attenborough’s Life of Mammals (Disc 4: Food for Thought)
Primary School	6	11	finding food in the canopy	
	5	10	animal intelligence	
	4	9		
	3	8		
	2	7		
1	6			
Reception / Early Childhood	K	5		

Contents

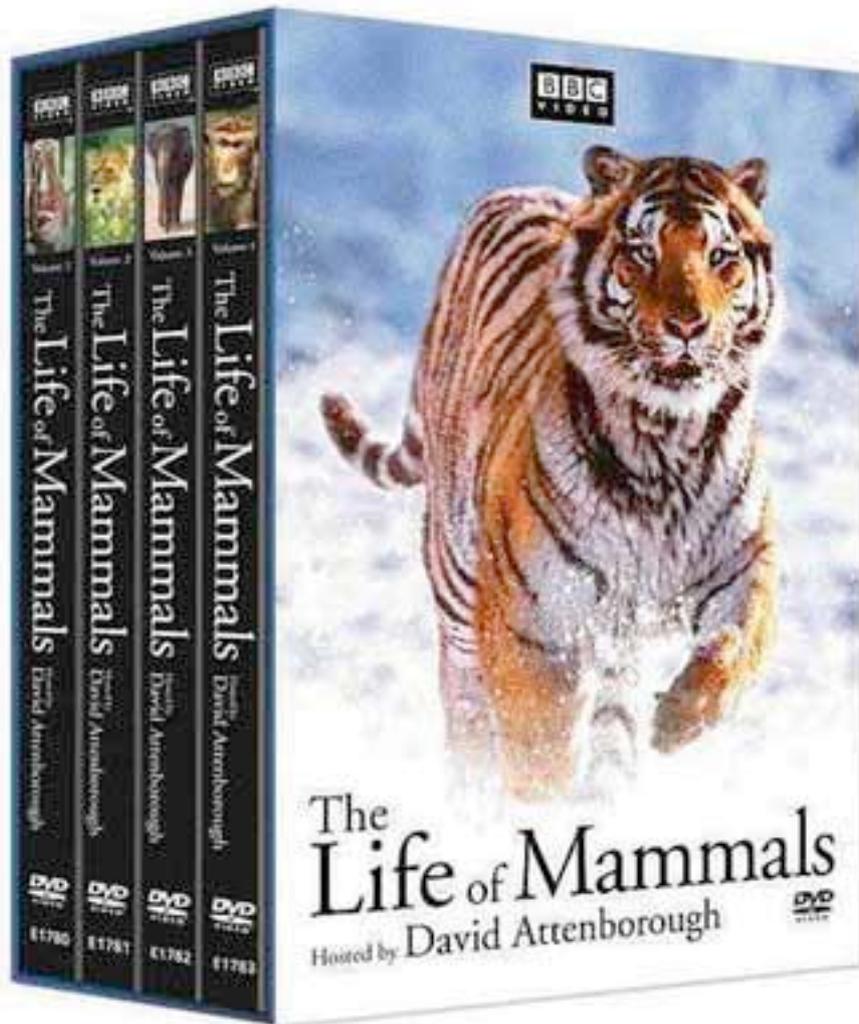
This pack contains the following;

Worksheets:

- Imitating Human Behaviour Behaviour Section 1
- Finding Food in the Canopy..... Feeding Habits/Instinct Section 2
- Further Examples of Intelligence Animal Intelligence Section 3

The Orangutan Project, National Education Program has been developed by qualified Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary School teachers.

The Life of Mammals Hosted by David Attenborough



Disc 4 “ Food For Thought “

DVD available for purchase through all JB Hifi Stores, ABC Shops & Dymocks Books

Although the vision of orangutans is less than eleven minutes in duration, it could easily generate hours of discussion.

SECTION 1

Imitating Human Behaviour

This episode begins with the vision of “something” moving through the water. As the panorama increases, we realize that it is actually an orangutan paddling a canoe towards the jetty at Camp Leakey. An infant orangutan is also present. David Attenborough does not name the two orangutans, but it is highly likely that they are Princess and her son Pan as their exploits with regard to the “borrowing” of canoes has been documented. Following this, we see an orangutan washing itself with soap, a rope being untied and socks being washed.

1. These are NOT normal actions for orangutans, so why are they acting in this way?

2. Next, we see another female orangutan who - as David explains - loves DIY. Explain exactly what she is doing.

3. How does she know how to use these tools?

4. While the mother is busy using the tools, what is her infant doing ?

5. What is her older child doing ?

6. As David observes the female orangutan skillfully using a saw, he comments on a predilection which she has. Many humans also exhibit this tendency. What is it?

Research to Discover:

a. Who named Camp Leakey ?

b. Why was it given this name ?

SECTION 2

Finding Food in the Canopy

1. Next, we see vision of orangutans in the forest eating fruit. They seldom come to the ground. Why is this ?

2. Explain what David means when he says that orangutans travel by "pole-vaulting".

3. When travelling to find fruit, orangutans take a direct route and seldom take a wrong turn. As a result of these observations, it is believed that orangutans have a _____ in their minds.

4. As they appear at a tree when fruit is ready to be picked, it is also thought that they have a _____.

5. It can take _____ years for an orangutan to learn as much knowledge and skills as its mother possesses.



6. Orangutans are known as solitary animals. In this DVD though, we are shown that they are actually very social creatures. The scene on the feeding platform clearly demonstrates this. What would happen to a group of orangutans this size if they tried to live together in the wild ?

7. It is thought that orangutans' solitary life styles are caused by:

8. Explain what happens every four or five years when there is a glut of food.

9. Explain how all of the orangutans reacted when they heard and recognised the sound of the dominant (alpha) male's powerful bellowing.

SECTION 3

Further Examples of Intelligence

1. This segment commences with aerial vision of the swamp forests of northern Sumatra where it often floods. Describe the scene from the air.

2. Orangutans are often thought to be herbivores. This means:

3. However, they frequently eat insects. Termites are a favourite. In this segment, we see vision of a male orangutan not just using a tool, but actually creating one to suit his needs. Explain the four parts of the process to modify his tool.

- 1st _____
- 2nd _____
- 3rd _____
- 4th _____

4. While he successfully collects and eats the honey, the younger orangutans

5. This is how traditions are developed and passed on to _____

6. As the orangutans live in a _____, culture is developed.

If more of this DVD is watched, you'll see examples of chimpanzees also utilizing tools and developing culture. Prior to 1960, it was believed that only human beings had culture and could use tools. When Jane Goodall observed a chimpanzee called David Greybeard modifying an object to use as a tool, she telegraphed the news to Louis Leakey. He in turn responded with the now-famous remark, "Ah! We must now redefine man, redefine tool or accept chimpanzees as human!"

Discuss the implications of Jane Goodall's observations and Louis Leakey's response.

Can you find a definition of a "human being"? If so, what is it?
