



26th July to 2nd August 2008

www.essexscouts.org.uk/jamboree

Join in the Jamboree



Lemur

The Lemur Subcamp have sponsored Little Dave at Colchester Zoo!

About Lemurs

Lemurs are prosimians and are only found on the island of Madagascar. These wide-eyed, bushy-tailed, tree-hopping vegetarians could easily be mistaken for a squirrel or strange species of skunk. But lemurs are primates — the oldest living branch of primate on the evolutionary tree.

There are 85 living species of lemur – the most common being the ring-tailed lemur that we have used for our Sub-Camp badge. The name comes from the Latin “lemures” meaning “spirits of the night”. Most species are listed as endangered or threatened. They live in troops in a matriarchal society. Most species are arboreal and nocturnal. So not unlike some of our Scouts then!!

Madagascar is the 4th largest island in the World and is situated off the south east coast of Africa. It was a French colony until 1960. French is still widely spoken as is Malagasy and English.

How did Lemurs get to Madagascar?

Madagascar broke away from Africa/India about 100 million years before lemurs ever existed. Scientists believe lemurs and other mammals reached Madagascar via “rafting” on clumps of vegetation, or trees.

What do Lemurs eat?

Lemurs are mostly vegetarian and live on leaves and fruits. They will occasionally eat small animals and insects.

More Lemur Trivia

Their average life expectancy is 18 years. Ring Tailed lemurs live for about 27 years. The smallest lemur is the Pygmy Mouse lemur and it only weighs about 25g. The largest lemurs are the Indri and Diademed Sifaka lemurs and they weigh about the same as a big cat. Lemurs come in varying colours from reddish brown to grey.





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