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# The Lemur



## Lemur



Tara had finished stacking the magazines and was finally free to indulge in her thoughts.

She felt a burst of joy and began singing, "I am a dreamer! I am a dreamer! I would love to see a lemur! A lemur! A lemur!"

Tara enjoyed poring over the atlas, and she immediately picked it up

and started searching for the island of **Madagascar** - the fourth largest island in the world, located 250 miles off the east coast of Africa, and home to the lemurs.

Hi!  
I am Tara



Although lemurs belong to the primate family, they are distinct from monkeys and apes. Unlike monkeys, they have a wet nose and a strong sense of smell. The smallest lemur, the mouse lemur, weighs only 30 grams, while the largest, the indri, weighs 9 kilograms. Currently, lemurs are one of the most endangered mammals, with a 90 percent chance of extinction in the next 20-25 years. Lemurs are small, with a pointed snout, large eyes, and a long tail. They mostly reside in tree canopies and are active at night.

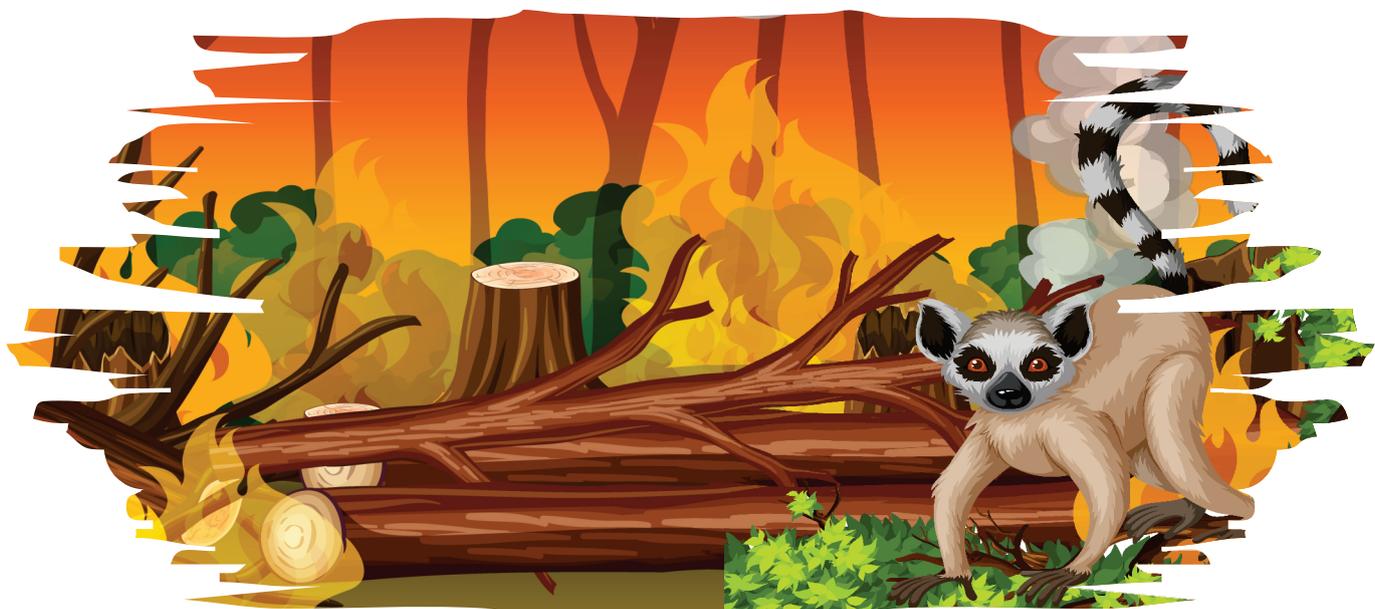
Interestingly, according to legend, the people of Madagascar believe that lemurs are the souls of their ancestors. This belief contributes to the conservation of this endangered species. While smaller lemurs feed on fruits and insects, larger ones

rely on a plant-based diet. After consuming the flesh of the fruit, lemurs discard the seeds, acting as seed dispersers. To avoid predators like fossa, lemurs sleep in hollow trees and cling to tree branches. They only come down to the ground to forage for food.



The lemur population is under threat due to illegal tree felling and mining. These adorable primates are not only losing their homes but are also becoming more vulnerable to being hunted by predators on the ground. Since they mainly live in trees, the felling of trees causes them to spend more time on the ground, making them easy prey for fossa, hunting, and accidental deaths.

Tara had read that besides humans, lemurs were the only mammals with blue eyes. Despite the bleak outlook, there is still hope for the lemurs. GERP, an organization that works towards saving lemurs in the wild, is striving hard to protect these unique animals.



## By Lemur Conservation Network

Some lemur species use the forest to self-medicate, acting as their own personal pharmacy. Red-fronted brown lemurs eat millipedes to get rid of gastrointestinal parasites, such as worms. It is thought that the toxins within the millipedes kill the parasites that set up home in the lemurs' guts

### New Words

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 1. <b>Stacking</b> - arranging items on top of one another | that lives on or in a host organism and gets its food from or at the | expense of its host.                         |
| 2. <b>Parasites</b> - an organism                          |  | 3. <b>Snout</b> - the long nose of an animal |

Find other new and interesting words for each other, and write their meanings in your notebooks.

### Comprehension

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. What is the purpose of an atlas?                     | 4. What is the weight of the smallest lemur? |
| 2. Where is Madagascar located?                         | 5. How do lemurs contribute to the forests?  |
| 3. How far is Madagascar from the east coast of Africa? | 6. What do locals believe lemurs represent?  |

Take turns to make more questions like these above for each other and answer them.

### Prompts Pair up

1. Discuss with your partner how deforestation is endangering lemurs. Make notes in your notebooks.
2. Draw and colour a lemur, and write down two things you learned about lemurs from the story.

**Instructions:** Take a blank paper and some colouring pencils. Draw and colour a lemur based on the

description in the story. Write down two things you learned about lemurs from the story. Share your drawing and what you learned with the class.

Watch the video on the Lemur using the QR code.



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DEVI Sansthan: Dignity, Education, Vision International  
10 Station Road, Lucknow 226001, UP, INDIA