

Get Curious! Animal Senses

Taste



Vervet monkey

Vervet monkeys are small grey-coloured monkeys with black faces. They have long arms, legs and tails which help them climb and jump in the trees where they spend most of their time. They live in savannahs, forests and woodlands near water across East Africa. Their favourite place being acacia forests next to rivers and lakes.

Vervet babies

From about five years old the females are able to have babies. They give birth to one baby each season. In the first weeks of the baby's life, they cling to their mother's stomach. They soon develop strong social connections with other monkeys and begin to interact and play with them by as young as a month old.



Did you know?

Vervet monkeys are omnivores, which means they eat other animals as well as plants. Some of their favourite foods include leaves, flowers, fruit, insects, eggs and small birds. You might have noticed that these foods have something in common - they can all be found in the trees! Although Vervet monkeys also find food and water on the ground.

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I wonder...

Using the picture, what things could you wonder about? There doesn't need to be an answer! Here are some examples:

- I wonder what the monkeys are looking at.
- I wonder what they are feeling.
- I wonder what it's like to have a long tail!

Talk together

- Describe the scene.
- Talk about what the monkeys are doing. (Grooming and cleaning!)
- Discuss why they are in a tree.
- Why do you think the monkeys clean each other?



Ideas for home



- **SENSORY:** Monkeys love fruit. Try different types of fruit at home. Which ones do you like?
- **DRAMA:** Imagine you are monkeys with a long tail sitting high in the trees. Pretend to swing through the trees and clean each other!
- **MUSIC:** Sing 'Naughty Little Monkey'.