

Orangutan Enrichment

Materials Needed:

- Ice tray
- Water
- Diced Fruit/ Veggies
- Graphing Paper
- Pencil
- Ruler

Overview

Why is it important to have enrichment for our animals?

Lesson

Orangutans are found throughout southeast Asia, specifically in Sumatra and Borneo. Thus comes the two classifications of Sumatran and Bornean Orangutans. The most recognizable features of Orangutans are their big bellies, red fur, and long arms. They are the largest arboreal apes, meaning they spend almost all of their lives up in the trees. So what might help them with their arboreal lifestyle?

Let kids guess - it's their long arms and their grip

Long arms help Orangutans grab onto branches that may be further away. Then they are able to hold themselves up in the trees for about 90% of their life! Their grip is about 4 times stronger than the average human! Not only do they have strength, but they also have dexterity and intelligence. An Orangutan can gently peel an orange with its fingers. Intelligence is subjective, but these primates are smart enough to learn sign language and communicate with people!

Activity

- As a keeper, it is our role to make sure our animals have enrichment items that incorporate all the senses. Today, explorers will be their very own orangutan enrichment and daily activity schedule.
- Have parents dice up several berries and a few pieces of veggies.
- Fill an ice tray half way with chopped up food and fill tray with water. Let freeze overnight and you've created an orangutan enrichment!



- Next, create a table with different dates and times. In each block, create a different activity that might be enriching to an orangutan.

Ex:

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
8:00am	Food In Ice Snack	Bubbles	Sprinkler	Painting	Sign Language	Movie	Boxes

