

Using a story: Miko the Monkey

Topic: Monkey facts and abilities

Aims:

- To develop reading skills in younger learners by using a short, narrative story
- To reinforce forms of the present tense, particularly third person

Level: Primary/Low Intermediate

Introduction

One of the main aims of using stories at this level is the general development of reading skills. Using longer story texts develops a far wider range of skills than is usually included in texts in primary coursebooks. In this story lesson students are given the opportunity to hear and read an original narrative story and build their knowledge of how a story develops.

Procedure

Pre reading task

- Warm-up. Find out what the class knows about monkeys with simple questions, e.g. 'Where do they live?' 'What do they eat?' 'What kinds of monkeys are there?' 'Can monkeys swim?'

Tip: Pictures are a useful way of introducing the topic. You could find these in library reference books magazines or on the Internet.

- Divide the class into pairs or groups and give them the Quiz on 'Monkey Facts'
- **Worksheet A.** (Or you can ask them to do an interactive version live on the LearnEnglish Kids site at <http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/kids/flash/mcmonkeys/monkeys.html>)
- Ask students to complete the quiz. Then do feedback with the whole class for the answers. (Answers are included on the online version).

Tip: It is a good idea to give them a time limit to focus them on the task and keep them talking in English. You could introduce a competitive element into the feedback by giving points for each correct answer.

Worksheet A: Answers: 1. T, 2. F, 3. T, 4. F, 5. T, 6. T, 7. F

- Introduce the story '**Miko the Monkey**' to the class. (See text at the end of this plan)
- Tell them that Miko is a very small monkey who has seven brothers and six sisters and ask them how they think Miko feels and what happens to him etc.

- You could pre-teach some vocabulary with visuals/flashcards. Or use the activity from **Worksheet B**.

Worksheet A: Answers

1. Monkey 2. Banana 3. Nuts 4. Rambutan 5. Storm 6. Island

Tip: It is a good idea to ask students to speculate on the plot of the story before they actually see it as this raises their level of motivation.

Reading task:

- Read the story to the class. Try to use different voices for the different characters. You can stop and explain vocabulary if necessary (e.g. 'rambutans')
- Then read the story again with the students taking parts and/or reading sections.

Tip: If you have access to computers or a single computer with a data projector you can read and listen to the story directly from the [LearnEnglish Kids](http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/kids/stories/story.asp?story=69) site at: <http://www.learnenglish.org.uk/kids/stories/story.asp?story=69>. You could stop after "**We have no food, we will die here**" and ask the students to predict the rest of the story. This can make it more exciting!

- Ask the students to act out the story of the main characters and events. You will probably still need to be the narrator and director.

Tip: You will need to pre arrange space for this. You could also find one or two props to make it more fun.

Post reading:

- Get the students to look at the statements in **Worksheet C** and decide if they are true or false and work through the answers with them.

Worksheet B: Answers

1. T 2. F 3. T 4. F 5. F 6. T

Tip: It is a good idea to have a 'quiet period' built in to the lesson after a very active or noisy activity.

- Give out **Worksheet D** and get the students to work together to try to complete the missing word.

Worksheet D: Answers

Miko is a small monkey. He lives in the forest with his brothers and sisters. They eat bananas, fruit and nuts. But Miko is very small. He eats nothing.

One day it rains and the river goes up. The monkeys have no food. His brother Uko falls into the river. Then Miko jumps across the river and gets bananas for his family.

Uko comes back to the family. He says Miko is a very brave monkey. Miko is very happy.

- Give out **Worksheet E** and ask the students to look for words from the story in the grid.

Tip: You could put them in teams to do this so that it's more competitive.

Worksheet E: Answers

B	J	N	H	U	N	G	R	Y
B	R	O	T	H	E	R	S	N
V	L	C	L	I	M	B	I	T
I	S	W	I	N	G	S	S	F
L	R	I	V	E	R	T	T	A
L	R	J	D	F	F	E	E	U
A	U	N	C	L	E	A	R	N
G	B	R	A	V	E	L	X	T
E	C	F	O	R	E	S	T	N

Follow-up activities

- You could ask more able students to write a simple monkey or animal story of their own.

Story text**Miko the Monkey**

Miko the monkey lives in the forest. He has a very big family. He lives with his seven brothers and six sisters, his mum and dad, his grandmother and grandfather, and his three aunts and four uncles. What a big family!

But Miko is very unhappy. He is the smallest and youngest monkey in the family. His brothers and sisters laugh at him because he is so small. They swing around in the trees and Miko can't go as fast. "Ha, ha, ha!" they laugh, as they leave Miko behind.

Miko is very, very small. His brothers and sisters eat all the food. They eat the bananas and fruits and nuts in the forest. When Miko arrives there is nothing. So he stays very, very small.

Sometimes the monkeys go to the village near the forest to find food. There is a big house near the forest with fruit trees in the garden. The monkeys run into the garden and steal the bananas to have fun! There are also big rambutan trees. Rambutans are red and hairy fruits. Monkeys love them. But Miko gets no bananas or rambutans.

One day there is a bad storm. It rains and rains and rains. Water fills the forest and the monkeys climb up the trees. Miko's family of monkeys must stay in the trees because the water becomes a river. The river goes faster and faster. The monkeys' small piece of forest becomes an island. There is water all around them.

It rains for six days. The monkeys stay in the trees and eat the fruit in the small forest. After six days there is no more food. After seven days Miko's family is very hungry. There is no food to eat. They must find some. Miko's big brother Uko thinks he is very brave. He looks at the fast river. He looks at the trees. There is one place where he thinks he can jump the river. Uko climbs up the big tree near the water. He swings in the tree. He swings towards the tree on the other side of the river. Then he jumps. He reaches for the big branch, but he is too big. He falls into the river.

"Oh, he is falling," cries his mother. But it is too late. The river takes Uko. All the family cries and cries.

"What can we do?" says Miko's father. "We have no food, we will die here."

Miko climbs slowly up the tree. He climbs to the big branch. He climbs to the treetops to the small branches. He looks down at the river. Then he jumps. He falls but reaches out for a small branch. He catches it. He jumps again. This time he jumps across to the tree on the other side. "Look!" shout his brothers and sisters. "Look at Miko!"

They smile and clap as Miko climbs down the tree. Miko looks around. He sees some banana trees and takes the bananas. He throws them across the water to his family. Then he finds more fruit and throws the fruit across to his family too. The monkeys eat – they are very hungry. Miko spends all day finding food. He is very tired. His family is very happy. Now they are not hungry.

The next day Miko finds more food for all the monkeys. The next day he does the same. After six more days the water goes down and the monkeys can cross from their island. Now all the monkeys can find their own food and when they look at Miko they smile.

"What a brave little monkey!" they say.

Suddenly they see another monkey. He walks slowly towards them. It is Uko! The family tell Uko about Miko. "You are a very brave monkey." Says Uko to Miko.

Miko is very tired but very very happy. All the family know he is the bravest monkey... and they never leave him behind again.

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