



# Handy Primates

Use observation and inquiry skills to find out if primates are left-handed or right-handed

**Location in Zoo:** Primate exhibits throughout the Zoo

**Materials:** Pencil, Stopwatch

**Activity:** Are you a righty or a lefty? Most people are right-handed but about one in ten uses their left hand. Why do you think that is? Do you think primates also use a particular hand more than the other?

**The Question:** Which hand do primates prefer, the right or the left?

**My Prediction and why:** \_\_\_\_\_

## The Race Experiment

1. Choose three of your favorite primates in the Zoo to observe.
2. Watch ALL the primates in each exhibit for 1 minute.
3. Every time any of the primates uses its right or left hand, put a mark in the table below.
4. Repeat steps 1-3 for your other primate groups.
5. Total up the marks after you've observed all three groups.

Primate Type	LEFT	RIGHT
<b>Grand Total</b>		

Did the primates use their left hand or their right hand more often? Why do you think it happened that way?

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Primates are our closest animal relatives, but what about other animals? Do they prefer to use one hand – or paw – over the others?

Choose an animal to observe other than a primate and investigate whether they also like to use one hand or the other:

Type	LEFT	RIGHT

What happened and why do you think it happened that way? Do other animals prefer one paw over the other?

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