



Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills 8th Edition

Benchmark

Grade 6

Student Materials

Sloths and Monkeys

Sloths and monkeys are two types of mammals that live in South America. There are many similarities and differences between sloths and monkeys. Both sloths and monkeys generally live in middle latitudes that tend to be tropical. Both sloths and monkeys like to live in trees and climb around the canopy. They both tend to eat plant material, but occasionally eat insects. Because they are both mammals, they both have furry bodies.

Many people think that sloths and monkeys are closely related, but they are quite different. Although both sloths and monkeys live in South America, monkeys can also be found on other continents like Africa and Asia. Also, there are even monkeys that live in snow.

Although both sloths and monkeys live in the trees, sloths move very slowly. It is one of their defining characteristics. Monkeys, on the other hand, tend to move quickly from branch to branch. Also, sloths tend to move around by hanging upside down from branches whereas monkeys walk on top of branches. Sloths are able to hang upside down because of their long claws. Monkeys don't have claws like sloths, but they generally do have long tails that provide balance when walking on branches. Sloths don't have tails like monkeys. Finally, sloths are often considered lazy because they are so slow and sleep so much. In fact, "sloth" can be a synonym of lazy; people sometimes accuse lazy people of being sloths. One sloth, the pale-throated sloth, moves so slowly that algae grows on its fur and it turns green!