



# Leaping Lemurs and Arboreal Aye-Ayes

Lemurs are a group of primates that are only found in Madagascar. Some lemurs, like the ring-tailed lemur, spend their days sunbathing on the forest floor. Others, like the aye-aye, forage for insects and fruits at night in the forest canopy. Make your own terrestrial (living on land) and arboreal (living in trees) lemurs and explore how their bodies are adapted for their different habitats.

## Materials

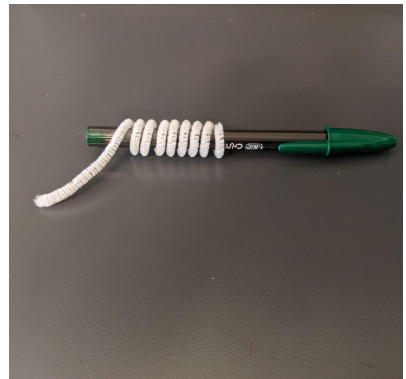
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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 toilet paper rolls  | Scissors           |
| 3 gray pipe cleaners  | Crayons or markers |
| 2 black pipe cleaners | Tape               |
| 1 white pipe cleaner  | Printed templates  |
| 3 brown pipe cleaners | Pencil             |

## Directions: Ring-tailed lemur

1. **Punch** one hole on each side of the top and bottom of the toilet paper tube roll. The two holes on top will be for the arms, and the two on the bottom will be for the legs. Punch one more hole in the back of the tube between the legs for the lemur's tail.



2. **Wrap** and **intertwine** the white and one of the black pipe cleaners around each other. This will be the lemur's black and white striped tail. The striking pattern of the tail helps keep the group (called a troop) together so each lemur knows where the others are.
3. Take two gray pipe cleaners and a pencil or pen. **Wrap** each pipe cleaner around the pencil tightly. Once all of the pipe cleaners are wrapped around, **push** the pencil out. Each coiled pipe cleaner will be a leg for the ring-tailed lemur. These lemurs spend about 40% of their time on the ground, unlike most lemur species that spend the majority of their time in trees.
4. Color and cut out the ring-tailed lemur head and body on page 3. They are labeled "A" and "a".
5. **Tape** the head and body pieces onto the toilet paper tube and then **insert** one gray pipe cleaner all the way through the upper holes on the side of the tube. These will be the arms. **Insert** the intertwined black and white pipe cleaners into the hole in the back. This will be the tail.
6. **Insert** the two gray coiled pipe cleaners into the holes on the bottom of the tube, one on each side. These are the legs of the lemur.
7. Your ring-tailed lemur is now complete! Can you make your lemur bounce and jump? While ring-tailed lemurs usually walk with their hands and feet on the ground, they can leap for defense or to compete with each other.



## Directions: Aye-Aye

1. For the aye-aye, **repeat** step 1 by cutting 5 holes in a second paper tube. Aye-ayes are the world's largest nocturnal primate, and spend most of their lives high up in the trees searching for food after the sun sets.
2. **Color** and cut out the aye-aye head and body pieces from page 3. They are labeled "B" and "b".
3. **Tape** the head and body pieces onto the tube and then **insert** one brown pipe cleaner all the way through the top holes for the aye-aye's arms. Insert a second brown pipe cleaner through the bottom holes for the legs. Insert a black pipe cleaner in the hole at the bottom back for the tail.
4. To make the fingers of the aye-aye, **cut** a brown pipe cleaner in half. Take one half and **cut** it into 4 equal lengths. **Twist** 2 pieces onto an arm about  $\frac{2}{3}$  away from the paper tube roll, making a hand that has 5 fingers (with the middle one being the longest). Repeat the same procedure with the other arm. Aye-ayes specialize in eating insect larvae found in trees, and use their long finger to tap the trees to find tunnels and hollow chambers. They use their big ears to detect where the larvae are in the trees, then they hook and pull the larvae out with their long middle finger.
5. Your aye-aye is now complete!  
Where will your aye-aye explore?

