

World Lemur Day:



Animal Tales

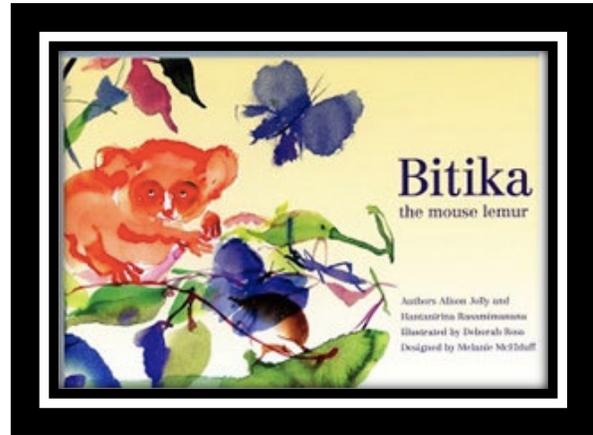
Bitika the mouse lemur

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Age: 2nd - 5th grade

Gather your Gear

- [Bitika the mouse lemur](#) book or log on to watch the storybook reading.
- Kitchen scale
- Access to common household items



Get Ready

You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before reading the story.

- What types of animals have you seen at the Zoo?
- What do you know about lemurs?
- Where do lemurs live?

Read

Read the book, stopping to explore key story ideas. Below are some prompts to help guide you.

- Bitika means "tiny" in Malagasy, the language of Madagascar. How does this name represent Bitika the mouse lemur?
- What new things did Bitika discover after leaving her nest and exploring the forest?
- What are the different animals doing throughout the story?

Reflect

Discuss what was important or what we learned. Below are some questions to guide you.

- How did Bitika's feelings change throughout the story? Why did they change?
- How can someone feel big when they are physically small or young?

Relate *Create connections to the idea through activities.*

Activity: Compare Lemur Weights

In this activity, you will find common household items that represent the weights of different lemur species.

With over 100 different species, lemurs are very diverse. Different lemur species range in weight from 1 ounce to about 11 pounds!

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1. Gather your scale or something to weigh items with.
2. Search your house to find items that match each weight category found below. Use the scale to check each item's weight.
3. Be creative. You can use toys, kitchen utensils, food, clothes, etc. (Option: have an adult help you search the internet to find out how much different household items weigh.)
4. Use the table below to write down which household items match each category.

Weight Category	Lemur Species Weights	Household Item Match
30-60 grams (1 - 2.3 oz)	Madame Berthe's mouse lemur (30 grams) Grey mouse lemur (60 grams)	
300 - 500 grams (10.5 - 17.6 oz)	Mirza lemur (300 grams) Fork-marked lemur (350 - 500 grams)	
1400 - 2700 grams (3 - 6 lbs.)	Red-fronted brown lemur (4.5 - 5.3 lbs.) Crowned lemur (3.5 lbs.) Ring-tailed lemur (4.8 - 6 lbs.)	
4000 - 5000 grams (9 - 11 lbs.)	Sifaka (9 - 11 lbs.) Black-and-white-ruffed lemur (9 - 11 lbs.)	

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to share your knowledge and support for lemurs. Use #OnlyZooATL and #WorldLemurDay so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more?

- For more on lemur conservation, go to: <https://www.madagascarfaunaflora.org/>
- Visit Zoo Atlanta to see and learn more about [black-and-white ruffed](#), [ring-tailed](#), and [crowned lemurs](#).
- [Bitika the mouse lemur](#) is part of the Ako Series. This six-book series highlights different lemur species and stories. For more information visit: <https://www.lemureserve.org/ako-project/>