

Level
F

**Welcome
to**

**Content
Area
READING**

- Science • Social Studies
- Language Arts • Mathematics

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The Case of the Missing Monkey

An African Monkey Has Disappeared Forever

By Elizabeth Siris

(WASHINGTON, D.C., September 22)

The animal kingdom has lost a member. Scientists say that a West African monkey seems to be extinct. The name of the monkey is Miss Waldron's red colobus. No one has found even one of them in 20 years.

Where Is the Monkey?

Like all monkeys, this one is a primate. A primate is a type of animal that includes humans and apes. Primates have advanced brains. They also have fingernails instead of claws. And they have a sense of curiosity. Miss Waldron's red colobus is the first primate to become extinct in hundreds of years.

Miss Waldron's red colobus was discovered in 1933. It was named after F. Waldron. She worked for the man who made the discovery. In 1988, the monkey was listed as being in danger of dying out. In 1993, scientists started searching for it. They looked in the rain forests of Ghana and Ivory Coast, two African nations. However,



The monkey was named after a woman. She worked for the man who discovered the monkey.

the scientists did not find the loud, 20-pound monkey. They even set up cameras in the jungle to spot one. But none turned up on the film.

Solving the Case

Why have the monkeys disappeared? Experts say hunters killed them. It happened because people tore down the monkeys' forest homes. Losing their homes made the monkey easy to find and kill. Scientists hope this loss will cause some good. It may make people want to help other animals in danger of disappearing. Andrew Plumptre works for the U.S. Wildlife Conservation Society. He says, "Africa may seem like a world away. But it's our world, and we need to protect it."

Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

1. Read the title and the sentence below it. What is this card about?
2. Do you know about any animals that have disappeared forever? Why did that happen?
3. What questions would you like answered by reading this article?

During Reading

1. How is Miss Waldron's red colobus like a human?
2. Why do scientists believe this monkey is extinct?
3. What happened to the monkeys?

After Reading

1. How do you think the scientists looked for the monkeys?
2. Why do you think the article ends with words by Andrew Plumptre?
3. How do you feel about the loss of this monkey? Why?

Skill Focus

Getting Ready for a Feast

Getting ready to read is like sitting down to a meal. To do both, you ask yourself some questions: "What's on the table? What will I take in?"

Asking such questions helps you set a purpose for reading. It helps you to anticipate, or get ready, for the "feast" of ideas you will take in.

Set your purpose for reading "The Case of the Missing Monkey." Read the title and headings. Look at the picture. These clues help you see what's "on the table." This preview tells you your "feast" has information about an extinct African monkey. It makes you want to take in the details of who, what, when, where, and how.

Writer's World

1. Read about another animal that is in danger. Write a letter to put in the paper. Tell people about the animal and its problem. Explain how people can help save it.
2. Pretend you are a wildlife conservation expert. Make a booklet about an animal you are studying. (Read about the animal on the Internet or in a book.) Show how it lives. Tell about problems it has.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

UNIT 1: OUTER SPACE

The Solar System

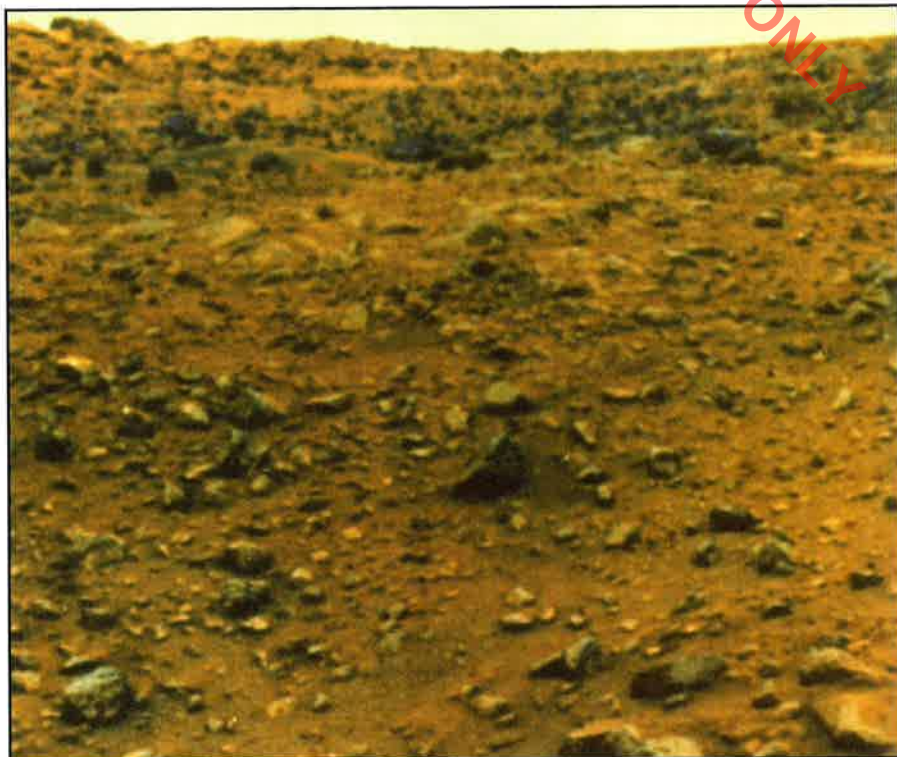
The solar system is made up of the sun and the objects that orbit around the sun. These objects include the nine planets, asteroids (small rocky objects), and comets (small icy objects).

The Sun

The sun has 99 percent of the material, or mass, of the solar system. Its gravity is so strong, it holds together all the objects of the solar system.

The Inner Planets

The four inner planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. They are small and rocky. Mercury is closest to the sun and has no atmosphere. Venus's



A spacecraft took this photo of Mars.

atmosphere keeps in the sun's heat. That's why it is the hottest planet in the solar system. Only Earth has oxygen, water, and life.

The Outer Planets

The outer planets are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. The first four are huge planets made mainly of gas. They all have rings and many moons. Pluto is tiny and rocky. Some scientists consider Pluto a comet, not a planet.

Fascinating Facts

- The sun shines 10 times as strong on Mercury as it does on Earth.
- Some ice chunks in Saturn's rings are as large as a house.
- Uranus is the only planet that spins on its side. Its north and south poles point at the sun.
- A canyon on Mars is as long as the distance between New York and San Francisco.
- The Great Red Spot is a hurricane in the atmosphere of Jupiter. The storm is three times the size of Earth.

Comprehension Connection



Before Reading

- 1. What do you know about our solar system?
- 2. Have you heard of asteroids and comets? What are they?
- 3. Look at the headings in the article. What do you think you will learn?

During Reading

- 1. Why is it important that the sun has the most mass of the solar system?
- 2. What does Earth have that other planets don't?
- 3. How is Pluto different from the other outer planets?

After Reading

- 1. Why is Mercury not the hottest planet?
- 2. What general statement can you make about the inner planets? About the outer planets?
- 3. Why do you think some scientists consider Pluto a comet, not a planet?

Skill Focus

Getting the Big Picture

What do you do first when you read a textbook? Probably the first thing you do is ask yourself, "What is this about?" That is just what you should do.

Why is this important? All the details and facts are about the main idea. You must know how the details fit into the big picture. Finding the main idea helps you understand and remember the details.

What is the main idea of this article? The solar system has a sun with nine planets, asteroids, and comets orbiting around it. Now you have the big picture. As you read about each part of the solar system, you can picture it. You can imagine what that part looks like and where it is in the big picture.

Writer's World



- 1. Is there life on Mars? Read more about the red planet. Write your opinion. List the reasons that you believe as you do.
- 2. Choose one inner planet and one outer planet. Make a chart that compares them. Add pictures to show the details and facts.

FIND THE SWEET SPOT

Have you heard of the “sweet spot” on a baseball bat? It is the best place on a bat to hit a ball.

Why? Because it will give you the most power with the least effort.

How do you find the sweet spot? Take a tip from big league sluggers Sammy Sosa and Barry Bonds. They say you can feel it in your fingertips. Try the science experiment below. Then you will see what they mean!



Sammy Sosa

Barry Bonds

You Need

- a baseball bat
- a spoon or hammer
- tape



You Do

1. Find a “teammate” to help you.
2. Curl your fingertips around the knob of the bat. (The knob is the bulge at the skinny end of the bat.) Let the bat hang straight down.
3. Ask your teammate to tap on the bat with something hard. (A hammer or heavy spoon would be great.) The tapping should start at the top near the knob. Then it should slowly move down the bat.

4. Feel the bat vibrating between your fingers? At some point in the tapping, you will feel the vibrations almost stop. The sound of the taps may change, too. That’s the sweet spot!

5. Use tape to mark where the sweet spot begins and ends.

Why It Happened

A ball flies farther when you hit it on the sweet spot. How come? When your bat hits a ball, the bat vibrates. It does this just as it did when it was tapped by the hammer or spoon. The vibrations move up and down the bat. At the sweet spot, those vibrations run into each other. They cancel each other out.