

Mandrill

Fact Sheet

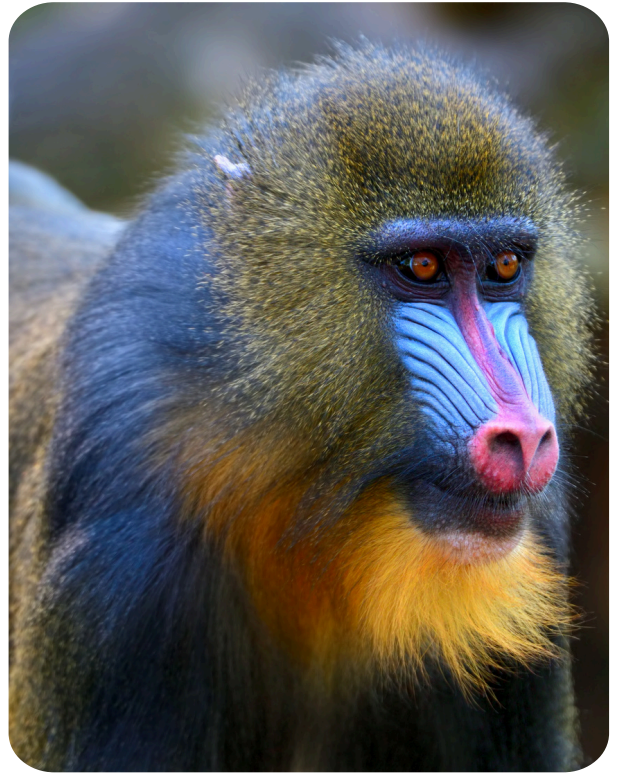
Common name: Mandrill

Scientific name: *Mandrillus sphinx*

Size: Between 11-27 kg (males are larger than females).

Diet: Mandrills are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. Their diet includes fruits, seeds, insects, and small vertebrates.

Habitat: Mandrills live in rainforests and woodlands throughout Africa



Mandrills are a type of monkey that are famous for their **vibrant** markings. The males have an olive green or brown coat, a blue and purple backside, a bright red stripe down the centre of their face, lined with two blue ridged patches, and a yellow beard. The females and young mandrills are not as bright! Adult males are usually larger than females, and their colours become even more **vivid** during mating season.

They spend much of their time on the forest floor, searching for food, but they can also climb trees when needed. Their sharp teeth help them eat a variety of foods, including fruits, nuts, insects, and small animals. They also have **cheek pouches** where they can store food to eat later.

Mandrills live in groups called **hordes**, which can have hundreds of members, making them one of the largest social groups of any **primate**. Within the horde, males and females have different roles. The **dominant** male, usually the biggest and most colorful, leads the group and protects it from danger. Mothers are very protective and caring towards their young, teaching them important survival skills.



Vocabulary

cheek pouches - special pockets inside some animals' cheeks where they can store food to eat later

dominant - the leader or the most powerful individual in a group

horde - the collective noun for a group of mandrills

primate - a type of mammal that includes monkeys, apes, and humans, known for their intelligence and ability to climb

vibrant - bright and full of energy

vivid - very bright and clear, used to describe bold colors or strong details

What is one fact you learnt about mandrills?

What do you like the most about mandrills?

What is one question you still have about mandrills?

