Chimpan 200 Research, Education and Enrichment





Quadrupedal Knuckle Walking Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees mostly travel from place to place on the ground. They walk on the soles of their feet like humans and they also walk on the backs of the middle joints of their fingers. A chimpanzee's body is mostly located above the waist (upper body dominant) and their body weight and body proportions push them toward the ground. Chimpanzees rest their weight on the knuckles while they are standing and walking. This activity will help you create a moveable knuckle walking, quadrupedal (locomotion requiring all four appendages) chimpanzee.

Adults must assist children with this activity due to tools needed

Materials needed:

- 1. Drawing of a quadrupedal knuckle walking chimpanzee in your color of choice card stock to provide support and sturdiness.
- 2. The bottom of a regular size shoebox (cover not needed), cereal or any cardboard box of similar size.
- 3. Child-safe Scissors
- 4. Crayons or color pencils
- 5. Elmer's school glue or non-toxic glue
- 6. A Ruler or tape measurer
- 7. Decoration supplies needed to create the chimpanzee's natural environment such as pom poms, foam pieces, or natural ingredients such as twigs, leaves, or small rocks.

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Steps to create activity:

- 1. Photocopy the drawing of the quadrupedal knuckle walking chimpanzee in your choice color of card stock.
- 2. Color and decorate the chimpanzee using crayons or color pencils.
- 3. Cut out the drawing of the chimpanzee along the dotted line.
- 4. Fold the drawing in half along the spine of the chimpanzee.
- 5. With this step an adult should assist the child in order to ensure the child's safety. Two parallel slits should be made at the bottom of the shoebox using the pattern for a **Landscape for a Knuckle Walking chimpanzee.** The slits should be 1 inch apart and should run the length of the box.
- 6. Place the feet of the chimpanzee into the slits at the bottom of the shoebox. Make sure the left foot is placed in the slit on the left-hand side and that the right foot is placed in the slit on the right-hand side.
- 7. Create a natural environment for the chimpanzee by gluing pom poms and foam pieces or natural items such as twigs, leaves or small rocks on the surface. Use your imagination to create the chimpanzee's environment or check out the ChimpanZoo or Jane Goodall Institute (www.chimpanzoo.org or www.janegoodall.org) websites for more information.
- 8. Now it's time to see how your chimpanzee knuckle walks! Place your hand inside the box holding the bottom of the chimpanzee's feet between your thumb and index finger. Make sure the knuckles of the chimpanzee are on the surface of the box. The sides of the shoebox will serve as a way to keep your hand from being seen by others. Move the chimpanzee back and forth along the slits. The illusion of a knuckle walking chimpanzee is now a snap.



