

Primate Locomotion

Napier Categories

Vertical Clinging and Leaping

The animal clings to a branch in a vertical position, the leaps landing vertically on another branch.

Quadrupedal

The animal moves on all four limbs with its body parallel to the ground.

Slow Climbing type

The animal moves slowly along the branch.

Branch walking and running

The animal climbs, leaps and jumps among the branches on all four limbs.

Ground walking and running

The animal climbs, leaps and jumps among the ground on all four limbs.

Brachiation

True Braciation

The body is suspended by the arms on a branch and moves, winging the arms overhand.

Modified Braciation

Hind limbs are used to support the body.

Knuckle Walker

The hind limbs are used to support the body and the animal walks on the knuckles of its forelimbs.

Bipedal

Upright heel-toe stride

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Field Study

Number of times observed in 5 minutes (place one mark at 30 second intervals)

Name of Animal _____ Date _____ Time _____

Type of Locomotion	30	60	90	120	150	180	210	240	270	300
Sitting										
standing on 2 legs										
standing on 4 legs										
Ground Walking on Knuckles										
Ground Walking on Knuckles										
Branch Walking										
Leaping										
Swinging										

Based on the information that you observed, determine the closest Napier category that the specimen fits.

Vertical Clinger and Leaper _____

Quadruped _____

Brachiator _____

Biped _____

What problems did you have in determining the proper category?