

# Smelly Lemurs

## Collect

- Cotton balls
- Paper cups
- 2 types of food extracts (vanilla, mint, and citrus work well)
- A friend to act like a lemur



## Mark your territory

1. Soak five cotton balls in one type of food extract. This will be the scent of the first lemur.
2. Soak five more cotton balls in another type of food extract. This will be the scent of the second lemur.
3. Scatter the scented cotton balls around a room. Place a paper cup over each cotton ball to disguise them.

## Sniff it out!

4. Ask a friend to come in to the room. Can they identify where each lemur has been?
5. Switch it up and have a friend scatter the scent markings for you to identify!
6. For an extra challenge, place additional paper cups around the room without cotton balls. Can you tell which places have been marked by a lemur and which ones haven't?

## What's so smelly about lemurs?

Unlike other primates, lemurs don't use sounds or body language to communicate. Instead, they rely mostly on scent. Just like dogs, cats, and many other animals, lemurs use their scent to mark places that they consider their own. Each lemur has their own special scent to mark the places where they look for food, and to tell other lemurs who they are. Ring tail lemurs have special scent glands on their chests, wrists, and other parts of their body to help them leave their scent behind. Male ring tail lemurs have a special spur on each wrist to pierce objects before scenting them, and even have stink-fights with other males by wafting their smell to show how powerful they are!