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A NOTE FROM mei and gerdy

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ALWAYS nerdy,
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Evolution: Funky Monkeys

Name: _____

Objective: To demonstrate the process of evolution through natural selection

Here's what you'll need to conduct this experiment:

Funky Monkey groups, Funky Monkey Paradise, Black & White Fortune Cookies, and the Pouch of Predestination, Dice of Determination

Before You Begin:

1. What is an adaptation?

2. What does it mean when an organism is extinct?

3. What does it mean when an organism is endangered?



Background Information: The Funky Monkey is a primate species that lives on Funky Island along the equator near Central America. There are three special traits within the monkey population on Funky Island: tail length, diet, and fur color.

Which Funky Monkey are YOU?

- 1: Long-tailed, herbivorous, brown furred funky monkey?
 - 2: Tailless, carnivorous, brown furred funky monkey?
 - 3: Tailless, herbivorous, blonde furred funky monkey?
 - 4: Long-tailed, carnivorous, blonde furred funky monkey?
- ***Circle the group to which you have been assigned!****

Hypothesis:

What You Do:

1. Count off by 5's and each student will begin as a funky monkey (1-4) or an "angel" in paradise (5).
2. The Wrath of Nature (your teacher) will roll a 12 sided die that leads to one of 12 slides within the PowerPoint. Each slide affects one or more of the funky monkey populations.
3. If the environmental condition affects YOUR population, each member of that population must choose a "Fortune Cookie" from the "Pouch of Predestination" to determine whether you LIVE or DIE, REPRODUCE or STAY CHILDLESS.
4. LIVE and you stay with your funky monkey clan; DIE and you must go to funky monkey paradise in a most dramatic way. In order to REPRODUCE, you and another funky monkey from your clan must pull a white chip - choose an "angel" from paradise; STAY CHILDLESS and you continue to live life as a lonely monkey.

BLACK CHIP = DIE or STAY CHILDLESS

WHITE CHIP = LIVE or REPRODUCE

Evolution: Funky Monkeys

Name: _____

The Results: What Happened?

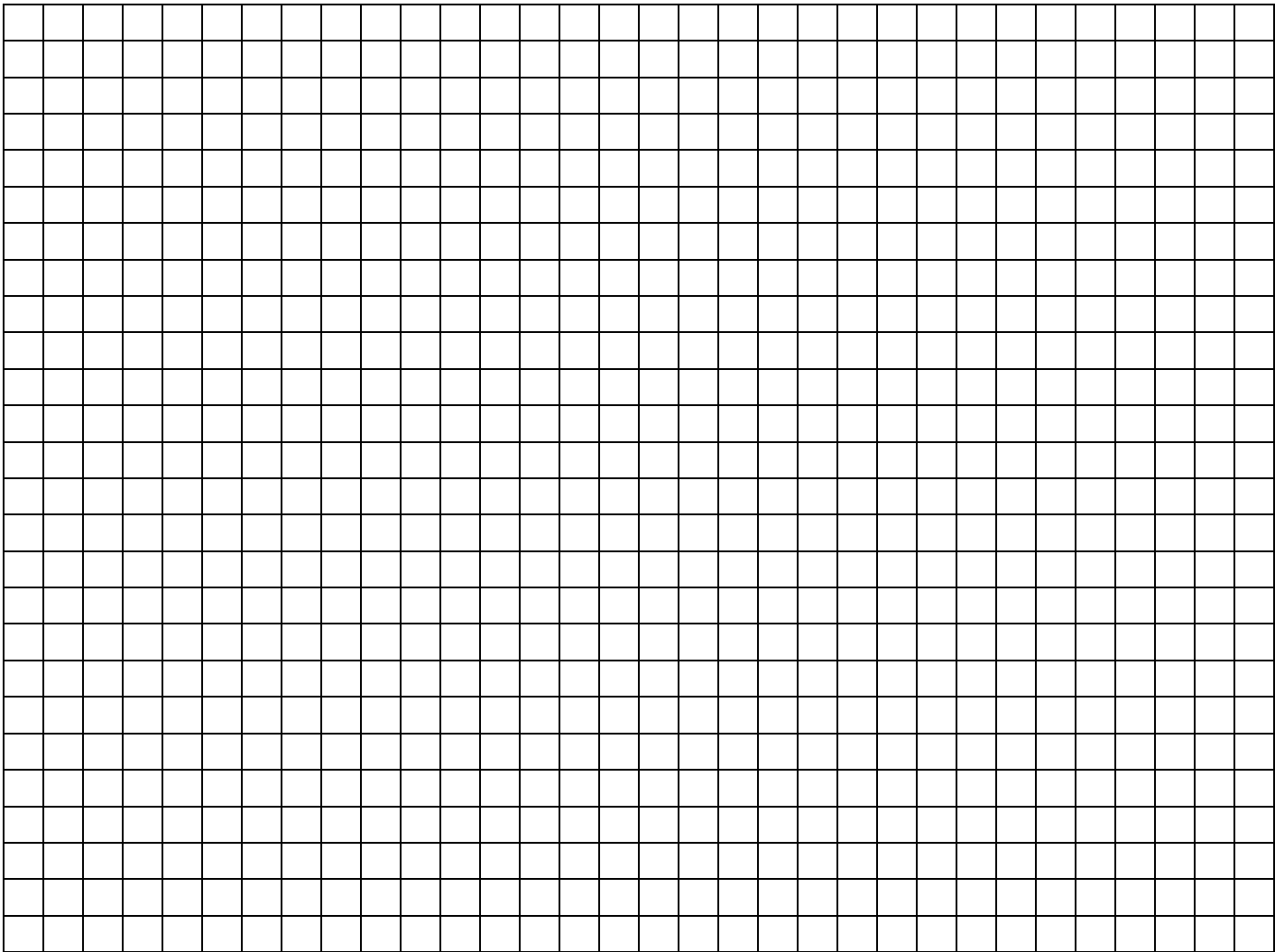
Look around - how many funky monkeys are in each group as you begin this activity?

| Monkey Type | Initial Numbers | Final Numbers |
|---|-----------------|---------------|
| Long-tailed, herbivorous, brown furred | | |
| Tailless, carnivorous, brown furred | | |
| Tailless, herbivorous, blonde furred | | |
| Long-tailed, carnivorous, blonde furred | | |

After the “Wrath of Nature” has occurred, stay with your Funky Monkey group or in Funky Monkey Paradise and let’s tally our final results. How many individuals remain in each funky monkey group? Put this data in the chart above.

Create a Double Bar Graph with the information from your chart. Be sure to label your X and Y axis, provide a title for your graph, and label your data. Use this data to answer the questions that follow.

Title: _____



Evolution: Funky Monkeys

Name: _____

The Results: What Happened? *(continued...)*

1. What traits are present in the current Funky Monkey population? Is there the same variety as the beginning of the activity?

2. Compare the data from your graph on the previous page. Which, if any, of the Funky Monkey groups are ENDANGERED? How did you determine this?

3. Which, if any, of the Funky Monkey groups became EXTINCT?

4. Why do you think certain groups were more susceptible to endangerment and/or extinction?

5. Which characteristics have become more plentiful in the Funky Monkey population? Why do you think those characteristics have become so abundant?

6. Basing your hypothesis on our current environmental conditions, what do you think the Funky Monkey population will look if we roll the dice another 30 times?

7. In this activity, how does adaptation affect the survival of the funky monkeys?

Evolution:
Funky Monkeys

Name: _____

The Results: What Happened? *(continued...)*

8. Pick an “endangered” group from the population. What kind of environmental change might benefit this group, causing them to become more populous?

Draw what this new environment will look like in the space below.

Evolution: Funky Monkeys

Teacher's Guide

Here's what you'll need to conduct this experiment:

Funky Monkey groups, Funky Monkey Paradise, Black & White Fortune Cookies, and the Pouch of Predestination, Dice of Determination

Before You Begin:

There are four types of funky monkeys and funky monkey paradise. We like to draw each type of monkey on a poster (or print and hang the attached funky monkey templates) and hang them in the four corners of the room. We also create a funky monkey paradise (also attached) and hang that in the center of the room.

- 1: Long-tailed, herbivorous, brown furred funky monkey?
- 2: Tailless, carnivorous, brown furred funky monkey?
- 3: Tailless, herbivorous, blonde furred funky monkey?
- 4: Long-tailed, carnivorous, blonde furred funky monkey?

Cut out the 12 sided die (template included in this bundle) and put it together.

Background Information: The Funky Monkey is a primate species that lives on Funky Island along the equator near Central America. There are three special traits within the monkey population on Funky Island: tail length, diet, and fur color.

What You Do:

1. Count off by 5's and each student will begin as a funky monkey (1-4) or an "angel" in paradise (5).
2. The Wrath of Nature (your teacher) will roll a 12 sided die that leads to one of 12 slides within the PowerPoint. Each slide affects one or more of the funky monkey populations.
3. If the environmental condition affects YOUR population, each member of that population must choose a "Fortune Cookie" from the "Pouch of Predestination" to determine whether you LIVE or DIE, REPRODUCE or STAY CHILDLESS.
4. LIVE and you stay with your funky monkey clan; DIE and you must go to funky monkey paradise in a most dramatic way. REPRODUCE and you choose an "angel" from paradise; STAY CHILDLESS and you continue to live life as a lonely monkey.

BLACK CHIP = DIE or STAY CHILDLESS

WHITE CHIP = LIVE or REPRODUCE

Once you are ready to begin the activity, ask the students if they are ready for the wrath of nature. Roll the 12 sided die (pdf template is included in this bundle). Scroll through the PowerPoint to the corresponding environmental condition and read it aloud to the students. Then, take the pouch of predestination to each affected group and have each student choose a chip. We like to use poker chips for this activity in an opaque basket or bag so that students cannot see the chip that they choose. Once they pull the chip, have them follow the directions according to the slide in the PPT. In the past we have modified this activity to make it more realistic – for reproduction, two students from a group must pull a white chip in order to reproduce. Once they reproduce, a student is pulled (born) from heaven and added back to their group. If only one student pulls the chip, they do not reproduce. We explained to the students that they must find a suitable "mate" in order to reproduce and the chip only indicates that it is "mating season."

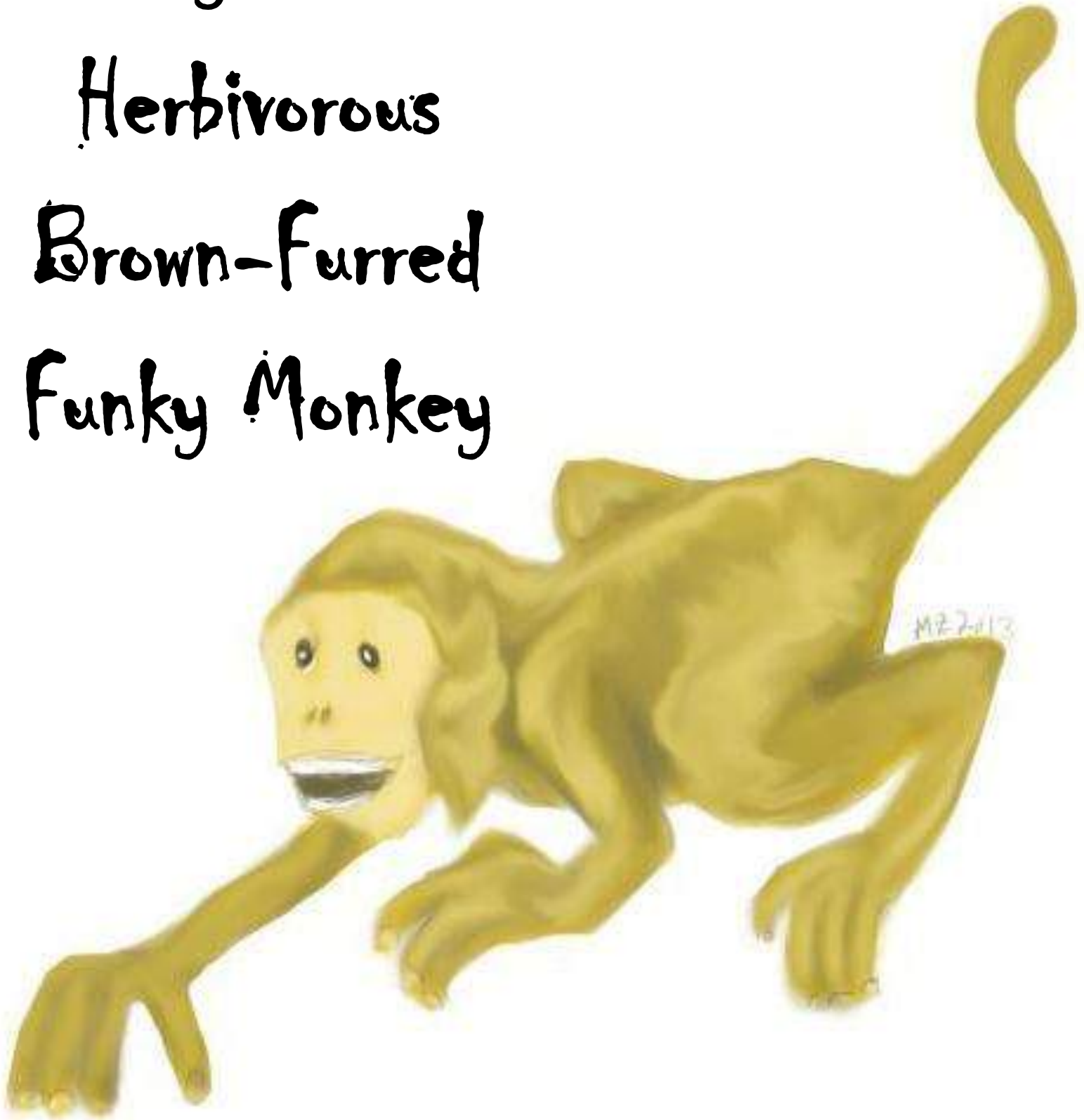
We usually roll the dice until there are about 15 minutes remaining in class, but you may roll as many times as you like in order to get more data, such that you have definitive and meaningful results. Another option could be to combine classes with another colleague to have more substantial data, or to complete the activity and compile all data from all classes and review the data the following day.

Evolution: Funky Monkeys

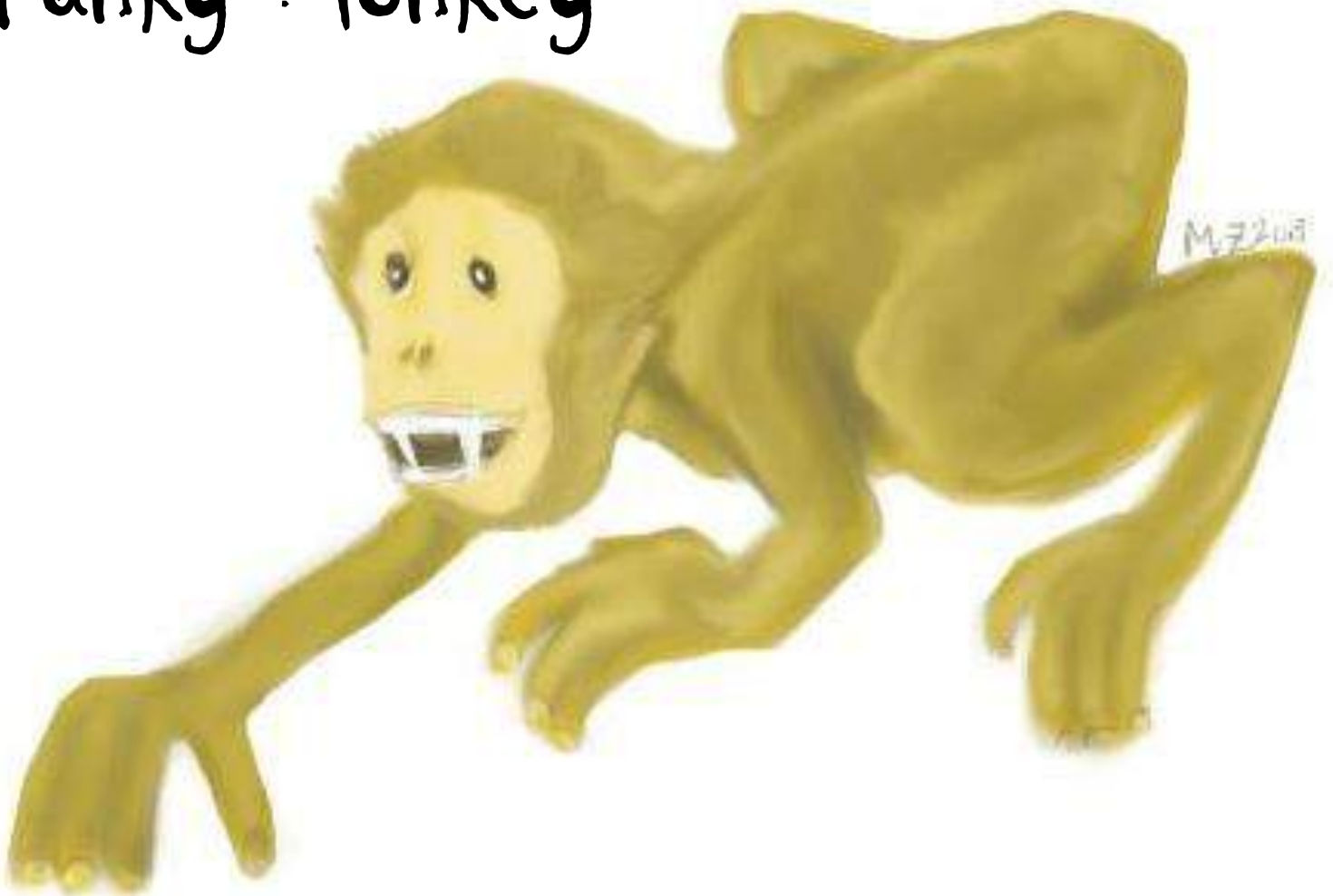
Template: Funky Monkey Paradise



Long tailed
Herbivorous
Brown-Furred
Funky Monkey



Tailless
Carnivorous
Brown-Furred
Funky Monkey



Tailless

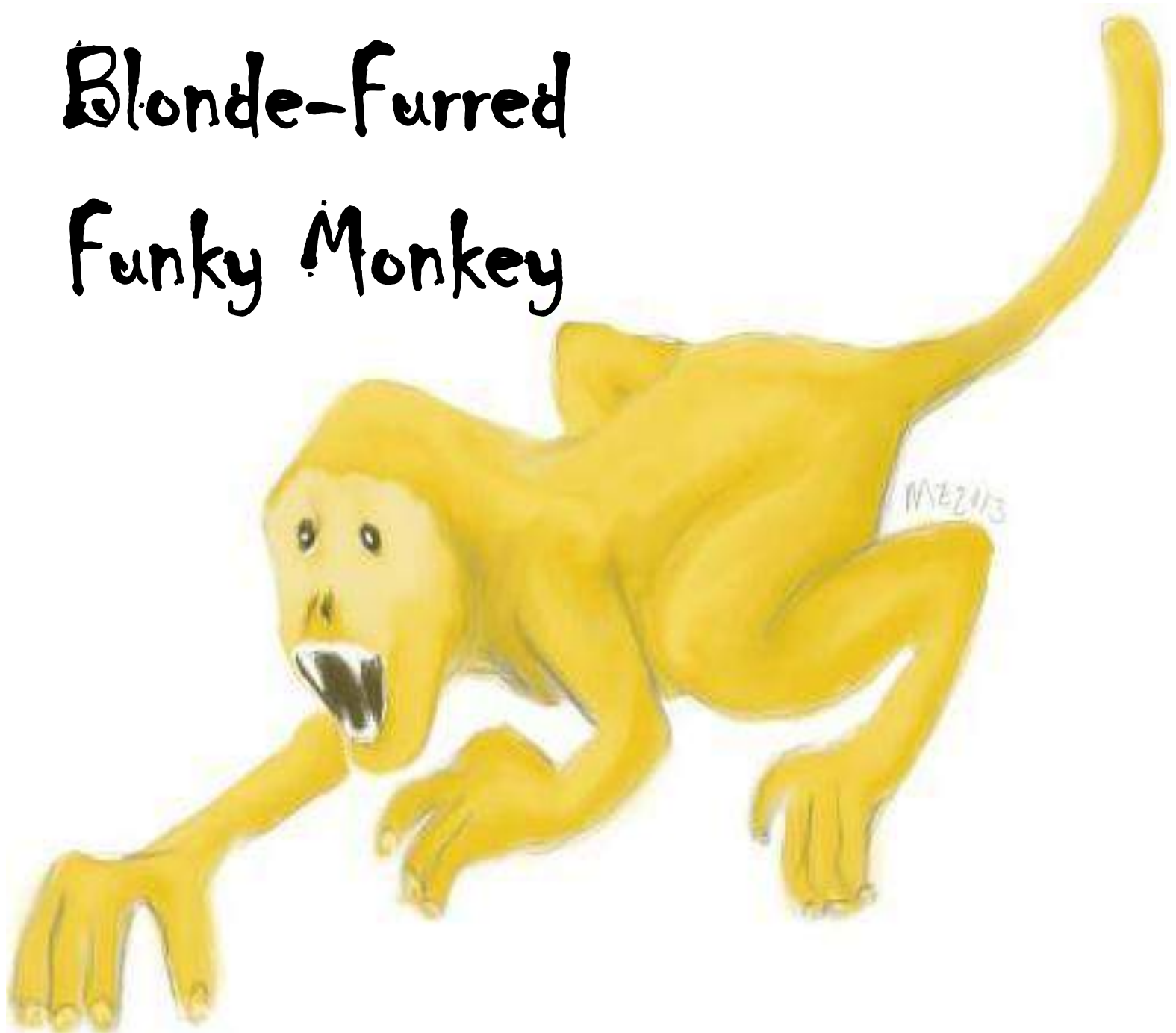
Herbivorous

Blonde-Furred

Funky Monkey



Long Tailed
Carnivorous
Blonde-Furred
Funky Monkey





We are Getting Nerdy!

Mel and Gerdy are two life science teachers with a true passion for curriculum design. We LOVE creating time-saving, fun and engaging activities for our classrooms & we're excited to be sharing them with you. We look forward to hearing your feedback on this product.

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