



# SAVE THE LORIS!

## ACTIVITY BOOK







Hello,

Firstly let us introduce ourselves. EAST (the Endangered Asian Species Trust) is a UK registered charity that was set up by Monkey World Primate Rescue Centre to help endangered primates in their native countries. One such animal we help is the pygmy loris. This shy, nocturnal little primate (weighing in at around just 300-500 grams!) is native to South East Asia, and is only found in a handful of countries. One of the countries they are found in is Vietnam. There are thought to be between 700 and 2,000 pygmy loris left in Vietnam, putting this tiny little primate on the edge of extinction.

The thing is, not many people really know much about loris. How can we expect people to want to help them if no one even knows they are in trouble? So we have a mission...to put loris on the map! We want as many people as possible to know about these amazing little creatures, and to be empowered to do everything they can to save them.

So we are asking you to help us. This activity pack is full of fun facts, games and activities that can be used to help you learn and teach children all about them. We have also put loads more fun stuff on the Kids' Zone of our website: [www.go-east.org](http://www.go-east.org), to support any lessons or activities on loris. All the games and activities in this pack are designed to cover a range of topics from Science to English to Art and many in between. But don't take our word for it, have a look yourself.

Please help us, and help give all those little loris a fighting chance.

Thank you  
From everyone at EAST and Dao Tien





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# 10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PYGMY LORIS

Pygmy loris are fantastic creatures, but they are in trouble. The more people know about them and the problems they face in the wild, the better chance we have of saving them. So have a look and find out all about the secret world of the pygmy loris.



## VITAL STATISTICS

**NAME:** Pygmy loris (*Nycticebus pygmaeus*)

**RANGE:** Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and a small part of southern China.

**WEIGHT:** 300-500g.

**SIZE:** 21-23cm.

**LIFESPAN:** Approximately 15 years in the wild.

**DIET:** Insects, fruit and the gum from trees.

**BABIES:** Females give birth to just one baby each year. Pregnancy lasts 6 and a half to 7 months.

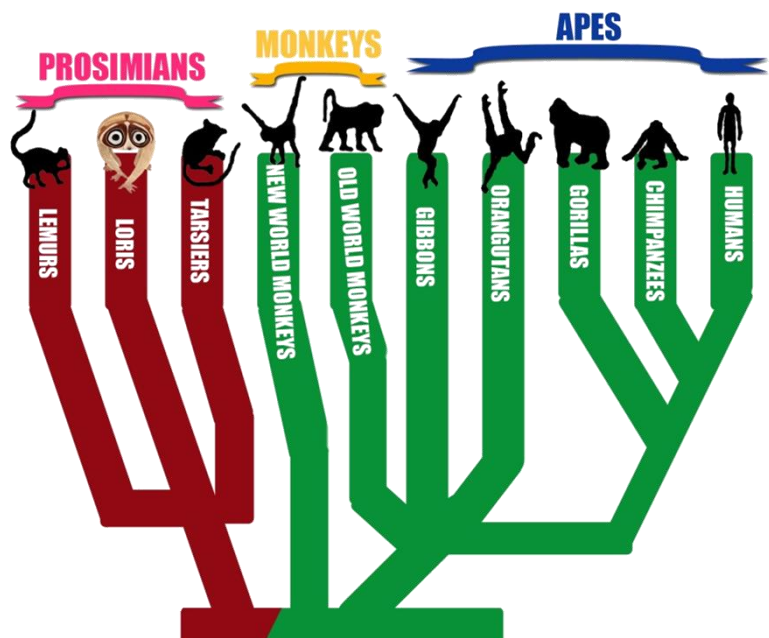
**THREATS:** Deforestation and hunting for food, Traditional Medicine and the pet trade.

## 1. THEY ARE NOT MONKEYS!

Loris are primates, but they are not monkeys or apes. They are *prosimians* (it means “before apes”), which evolved earlier than apes and monkeys.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Loris are only found in Asia and there are 3 different species: Pygmy loris, Slow loris and Slender loris.





## 2. THEY LIVE IN TREES

Loris live in many different types of forest habitat, and rely on trees for food and shelter.

They walk and climb along trees, moving slowly and deliberately using their strong gripping hands.

To cross from one tree to another, they will stretch between two branches, holding on to one with their hind feet and grabbing the next with their hands.



## 3. THEY CAN ADAPT TO DIFFERENT HABITATS

Loris live well in primary forest, however, they are incredibly adaptable so can live in different types of forest and many live in secondary forest.

For example, studies are showing that pygmy loris quite like bamboo forest. Bamboo forest is not always regarded as forest worth protecting.

It is important to protect all different types of forest, to ensure that there is a rich diversity of habitats for *all forest creatures*.



## 4. THEY ARE NOCTURNAL

Loris are nocturnal, which means they are awake at night. During the day loris sleep curled up in the shelter of trees, safely hidden from predators and the heat of the sun.

## 5. THEY ARE SOLITARY

Adult loris are solitary, which means they live alone. The territories of male pygmy loris often overlap many females, and they only come together to breed. Males don't help with the rearing of any offspring.

## 6. THEY NEED TO LEARN THEIR FOREST SKILLS

Loris babies will usually stay within their mother's territory until they are adults (approximately 2 years of age). It is critical that the young loris learn everything they need to know from their mothers to survive in the forest. This includes:

- learning how to find food
- the best places to sleep
- defending themselves against predators.





# 7. THEY HAVE AMAZING ADAPTATIONS!

## CAMOUFLAGE

Their brown fur allows them to blend in with the trees, keeping them hidden from predators.

## HISSING!

A threatened loris will hiss to warn others to stay away.

## GOOD SENSE OF SMELL

Loris use their good sense of smell to find food and to find a mate.

## BIG EYES

Loris are nocturnal, which means they sleep all day and are awake at night. They have big eyes so they can see in the dark.

## RAZOR SHARP TEETH

Loris have sharp teeth to crack into the tough bodies of their insect dinner. This is also a great defence, they have a nasty bite! Their mouth is full of bacteria, so a bite left untreated can get infected very quickly.

## GROOMING NAIL

Loris have one long nail to groom themselves.

## STRONG GRIPPING HANDS AND FEET

Loris have strong muscles in their hands and feet to give them a really good grip. This means they can grasp branches tightly for a long time without getting tired.

*We pygmy lorises are super adaptable to live in different types of forest. We can need to be perfect - it doesn't chance and we'll thrive!*





## 8. THEY ARE ENDANGERED

There are two main reasons for a rapid decline in pygmy loris across their range:

### a. THEIR FOREST IS BEING CUT DOWN

Rapid loss of forest habitat throughout South East Asia is one of the biggest threats to loris. If they have no forest to live in, they will become extinct.

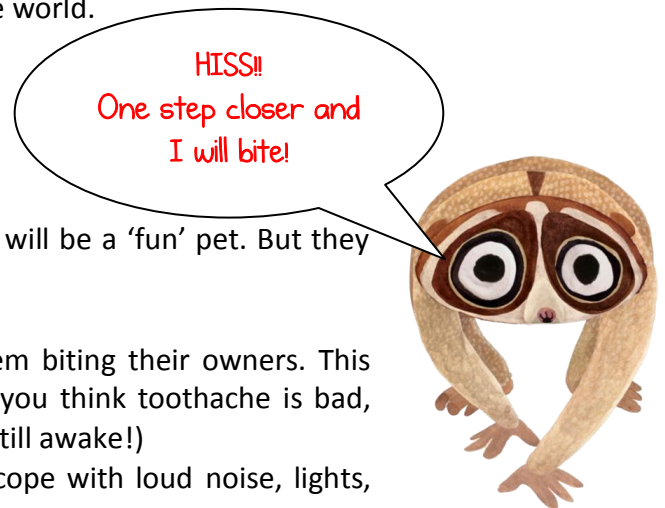
Their forest homes are being cut down for:

- Y Logging
- Y Agriculture
- Y Expansion of human populations



### b. THEY ARE HUNTED

Loris are hunted for food, Traditional Medicine and the pet trade. These primates are often kept in dreadful conditions; tiny cages, no decent food or water, and very little shelter from the scorching sun. When they die, their bodies are dried out and used in Traditional Medicines, which are then sold across the world.



## 9. THEY DON'T MAKE GOOD PETS!

People think because loris are small and cute looking, they will be a 'fun' pet. But they don't often realise the dreadful truth behind them:

- They will have been hunted from the wild
- Often their teeth are cut or pulled out to stop them biting their owners. This leads to terrible pain and infections in the loris (if you think toothache is bad, imagine having your teeth pulled out whilst you are still awake!)
- They often die in captivity because they just can't cope with loud noise, lights, and being stuck in a small cage.

## 10. THERE IS STILL SO MUCH WE NEED TO FIND OUT!

It may seem that we know a lot about pygmy loris, but the truth is there is still so much about them that we have yet to understand fully.

Because they are small, nocturnal, quiet animals, loris are very difficult to find in the wild. We still don't know enough about their wild behaviours, what type of forest they do best in or how many are even left in the wild. To protect loris from extinction, we need to know more about them. This will make the difference when it comes to saving them from extinction.

By monitoring loris before and after release, EAST is determined to find the best way to help save the pygmy loris in Vietnam.



# WHAT ARE WE DOING TO HELP THEM?

## ĐẢO TIỀN ENDANGERED PRIMATE SPECIES CENTRE, SOUTHERN VIETNAM



### WHAT IS ĐẢO TIỀN?

Đảo Tiên Endangered Primate Species Centre was opened in 2008 and is run by the charity EAST. Đảo Tiên is a rehabilitation centre in Southern Vietnam, working with rescued pygmy loris, and other native endangered primates.

When ready, these animals are released back into their native forests where they belong.

## PREPARING LORIS FOR A LIFE BACK IN THE WILD

### Why do pygmy loris need rehabilitation?

- Before rescue, these loris may have spent a huge portion of its' life in a small cage.
- Many have lost, or never learnt, the essential skills that they need to survive in the wild.
- If they don't learn these skills *before* they are released they may not survive.

### What does the rehabilitation involve?

- At Đảo Tiên, the loris have a forested area to practice in before they are released.
- This gives them the chance to get strong and fit again, and to relearn all those vital forest skills they need to survive in the wild.
- Each loris is monitored within the forested area, to make sure it shows good wild skills *before* full release.
- Each loris is fitted with a radio collar so they can be monitored after release to make sure the rehabilitation has worked.

### How is this helping pygmy loris?

- The results from their releases will be used to define government standards on how *all* loris should be rehabilitated and released, including:
  - What type of forest they survive best in.
  - What time of year is best for release.
  - How much time they need in a practice forest area first.
- This programme of monitoring the loris will continue until standards and protocols have been established.
- This means that in the future **all** pygmy loris released will have a better chance in the wild.
- With potentially just 700-2,000 pygmy loris left in Vietnam, it is vital that released loris survive and boost the wild population.

My human friends at Dao Tien are helping pygmy loris go back into the forests of Vietnam where we belong.







## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You already are – by learning more about the loris, and other wildlife, you are already taking a big step in protecting them. The more people who know about this problem, the easier it will be to solve. People power is HUGE and you'd be surprised at how much our voices count when it comes to making a difference.

### DON'T SUPPORT THE INTERNET CRAZE

There has been a craze on the internet recently of people 'tickling' their pet loris and posting videos on the internet.

Whilst this may look amusing, it is actually a stress response from the loris and means the loris is very anxious.

Loris die easily from stress. You can actively help loris simply by writing to these people, or the internet providers, and try and get such videos banned. It not only encourages keeping endangered primates as pets, it also encourages stressing them out.



Don't  
tickle me!



### NEVER EVER KEEP A LORIS, OR ANOTHER PRIMATE AS A PET.

These are wild animals. They cannot be domesticated, and cannot live well as pets. Loris that are kept as pets often die from stress.



### NEVER HAVE YOUR PHOTO TAKEN WITH ANY WILDLIFE AT TOURIST ATTRACTIONS.

If you do you are directly funding this trade.

### SUPPORT CHARITIES WHO ARE HELPING THEM

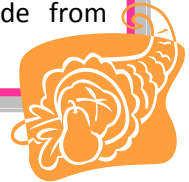
You can also support the conservation work carried out by EAST and other charities by:

- Adopting an animal at Dao Tien to support him/her on their journey back to the forest.
- Fundraising to help purchase many vital things that will help these animals during their rehabilitation.



### DON'T EAT THEM!

Never eat at restaurants that have wild meat on the menu, or use Traditional Medicine made from any endangered animal.



### TELL EVERYONE ABOUT LORIS!

This is the simplest and possibly most effective way of helping save loris: Tell people about the problems and how they can help.

If we each told 3 people, who then went on to tell 3 people, who then went on to tell 3 people, can you imagine how quickly the message would spread?

**Pass on the message that all of us can play a part in stopping these abusive trades.**



### DON'T STAND FOR IT!

Report any incidences of animals being kept illegally or in bad conditions. If you are on holiday or on a tour and you see wild animals on display – complain to the tour operator.

If companies think they will lose business by having these animals on display – they will stop.



# GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

## FUN WAYS TO LEARN ABOUT LORIS!

Each of the following games and activities can be used as fun ways to help to explain adaptations of loris, problems they are facing in the wild, or how students can help them. They are also designed to act as stand alone activities, if you're ever in need of some quick and easy activities that take little or no preparation...

### SLEEPING LORIS GAME

**AIMS:** To help students understand loris adaptations, and how loris are affected by rainforest destruction.

**DESCRIPTION:** This game is similar to Musical Chairs. As Loris are nocturnal, during the day they curl up in a ball and sleep under the shelter of leaves on tree branches to protect themselves against predators and direct sunlight. They also hide under leaves if it rains to stay dry. In this game, large leaves are used instead of chairs and gradually they are taken away as the game continues.

#### POSSIBLE PRELIM ACTIVITIES:

- Students can make their own leaves out of paper, card or felt. The leaves should be A4 size or bigger.
- To simulate the sound of rain, rain-makers can be made out of uncooked rice and a plastic bottle, or two paper cups taped together. Students could all make their own rain makers, decorating them, and then those students who go 'out' of the game can be in charge of making it rain, so all students are still involved.
- Loris masks can be made using the loris face mask activity included in this pack, and the students can practice moving like loris (slowly moving on all fours) before the game starts.

#### PLAYING THE GAME:

Scatter the leaves around the floor in the classroom – one for each student. Dim the lights and play rainforest sounds. The students can begin to move around on all fours, like a loris. Then either switch on the lights (to simulate day time) or shake the rain makers (to simulate a downpour). The students then have to get to the nearest leaf, curl up in a ball like a loris and put the leaf over them for shelter.

Once the students get the hang of the game, take away one leaf at a time (in the same way you would with musical chairs), until only one leaf is left.

#### LINKING TO THE THEORY

After, explain to the students that taking away the leaves in the game is the same as what is happening with the forest – it is being taken away from the loris and destroyed. The loris need the trees to live in. If we destroy the rainforest, we are destroying the homes of loris, and many other animals. How would the students feel if their homes were destroyed?







## CREATIVE WRITING

**AIMS:** To help understand more about what a loris is, their adaptations, and how loris (and many other species) are affected by the illegal wildlife trade.

**DESCRIPTION:** This can help with factual writing, writing fiction, and writing for different audiences/media. Students can make posters, leaflets, write fictional stories about a loris caught for the pet trade, newspaper articles about the subject, comic strips or anything else they can think of. Art and design, or IT, can also be incorporated by students drawing loris and making posters by hand or on the computer.

### POSSIBLE PRELIM ACTIVITIES:

- Students can carry out a web quest on the EAST homepage ([www.go-east.org](http://www.go-east.org)) to find out as much as they can about loris and the work of EAST to help save them in Vietnam.
- Ask students to read the Loris worksheets within this pack and summarise/answer questions about loris – perhaps in a quiz show scenario (mastermind: specialist subject – Loris!)

### ACTIVITIES:

- **FICTIONAL WRITING:** Introduce Dao Tien's loris mascot Luong. Students can write a story about Luong on his journey from the forest (where he was hunted and sold as a pet) to Dao Tien after he was rescued, to the forests of Cat Tien Nation Park where he was released. How would Luong have felt at every stage of this journey? Look at his adaptations to help write accurately about his life, how he moves and his behaviour.
- **COMIC BOOK SKETCH:** Students can either use the picture of Luong the Loris provided and insert him into a comic book sketch, or they can practice drawing a loris and make it themselves. A possible scenario for the comic book sketch could be that Luong has super powers to keep predators and hunters away: he is super stinky!
- **JOURNALISM/FACTUAL WRITING:** Write a newspaper article about the problem of the illegal wildlife trade and how it is affecting loris. Conclude with the solutions i.e. how people can help.
- **POSTER/LEAFLET DESIGN:** Students can make posters or leaflets based around one of the following topics: Loris Make Bad Pets; Dao Tien Helping Loris; The Life of a Loris.



## I'M A STINKY LORIS!

Loris are solitary animals so don't like other loris being too close. When threatened, loris push their hands over their head (like in a brace position) with their wrists over their forehead to expose their stinky glands (which smell like sweaty socks!). They then hiss to scare other loris (or predators) away!

Within this pack is a loris face mask, which the students can cut out and wear. Students can have fun pretending to be loris, with their face masks and hissing at other loris to tell them to stay away. To make it more authentic, students can even wear smelly socks over their hands to mimic the loris smell! The smellier the better!

You could even play some fun jungle background music to really set the scene.





## ACTIVATE THEIR ARTISTIC SIDE!

**AIMS:** To help students understand loris adaptations.

**DESCRIPTION:** Students can colour in or paint a picture of Luong the Loris (there is a colouring in sheet included within this pack), draw their own loris forest scene or even make their own pygmy loris models (papier-mâché is great for this or you can use kitchen rolls and cardboard for the body and buttons for the eyes).

### ACTIVITY:

Look on the EAST webpage [www.go-east.org](http://www.go-east.org) for pictures of pygmy loris at different angles. Print these off, or display on the whiteboard so students can easily see the following main characteristics: colouring around the face and back, body shape, head size relative to body size and the size of their eyes relative to their head. The Luong loris pictured throughout this activity pack is a good caricature if students really want to emphasise their features!

Pygmy loris, as the name suggests, are very small primates, measuring on average just 21cm. Students can therefore make life-size models. Their eyes are approximately 15mm in diameter. Because loris are nocturnal, they have big eyes. If you can get the materials, its fun to make the eyes out of something that will glow in the dark, or reflect in light (such as the reflective strips worn by bike riders at night, or simply just some tin foil or shiny material). The legs are best made from pipe-cleaners, or another flexible material, so they can be manipulated to grip on to things and you can hang them all around the classroom!



Once complete, the loris can be hidden all around the classroom, or the class could make a whole rainforest scene to hide the loris in!

## SPECIAL SENSES

Because loris are nocturnal their eyesight, smell and hearing are very sensitive. This makes them particularly prone to stress when kept as pets, because they can be affected by light and noise that we wouldn't even particularly notice. Many loris die in captivity because they cannot cope with the stress associated with being around so much light and noise in a small space that they cannot escape from.

Test the students own senses by blindfolding them and having them try to guess what they can feel, taste, smell or hear:

**TOUCH:** This is great with loads of different objects and textures, ranging from everyday objects like marbles, pens and tea bags to messy things like sand, jelly and mud!

**TASTE:** Use a range of different tasting foods and drinks; maybe even use exotic fruits that the children may not have tried before.

**SMELL:** Great smells to use are strong scents like coffee, cinnamon, vanilla, lavender and chocolate. Some really bad smells too like sweaty socks (which is what loris smell like)!

**SOUND:** You could play this like a game of Blind Mans Bluff. Put all the children in a circle, with one in the middle blindfolded. Walk around the circle and tap one student quietly. This student then has to quietly hiss like a snake, or growl like a cat (both are predators to pygmy loris). The student in the middle then has to point to where the sound is coming from – just like a loris would have to locate the sound of predators in the dark!







## Cool Cu Li Jive

The Vietnamese word for loris is Cu Li (pronounced “coo lee”). This song is a fun way to teach about loris behaviour and why they are better off in the forest where they belong.

If you're kids are feeling extra energetic there are even moves that go along with the chorus! Why not make up your own dance routine for the rest of the song too...



### Cool Cu Li Jive

Deep in the forest, and way out of town  
In the middle of the night, the Cu Li can be found.  
Moving slowly from tree to tree  
It's the life of the loris that we don't see.

#### CHORUS:

Do the cool Cu Li hiss, and the cool Cu Li roll  
Climb up a tree and away we go  
We hide from the Sun and we hide from the rain  
Keep me in the forest or you'll cause me pain.

Lots of animals, they come and go  
Through the forest by they don't know  
Little loris is way up high  
They don't see him, so they go by.

#### CHORUS

Cu Li in a cage, he wants to be free  
Sunlight hurts his eyes and he cannot see.  
Cu Li in a cage, it hurts his head  
He wants to hear his jungle jive instead.

CHORUS to end.

#### ACTIONS TO GO WITH THE CHORUS

“Do the cool Cu Li Hiss....” [students cross their wrists at their forehead and bear their teeth as a loris does when angry or scared]

“and the cool Cu Li roll” .... [roll arms and curl down into a ball as a loris does when it goes to sleep]

“Climb up a tree and away we go...” [come up from ball to standing using hand actions to mimic loris gripping on to branches and moving up a tree”]

“We hide from the Sun and we hide from the rain...” [arms over head to mimic the loris sheltering under a leaf]

“Keep me in the forest or you'll cause me pain” [students point and wag their finger as if telling off someone”]

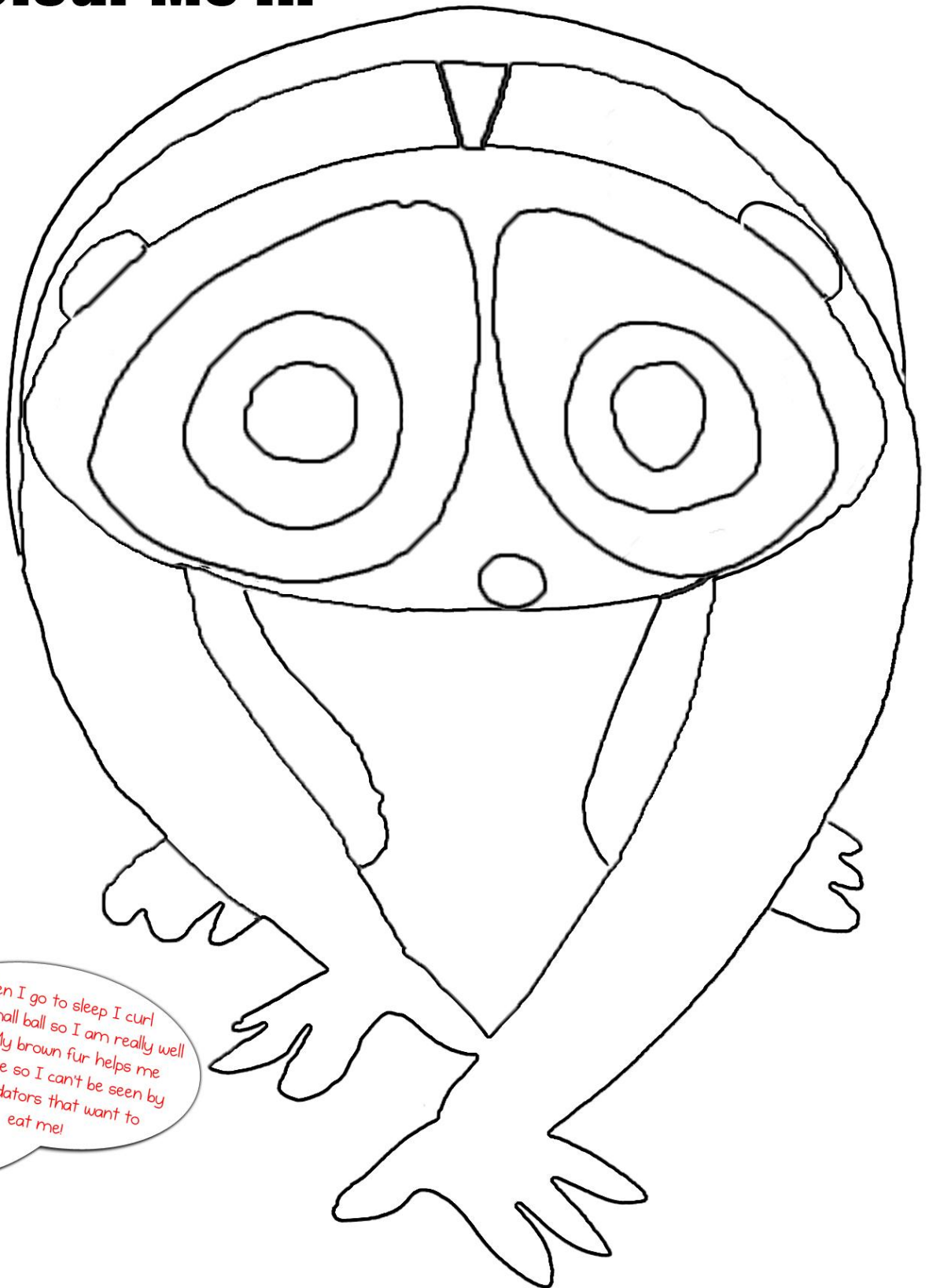
## CHECK OUT EVEN MORE ACTIVITIES ONLINE!

Go to our webpage [www.go-east.org](http://www.go-east.org). In the Kids Zone you'll find a whole section dedicated to Luong the Loris, with even more fun games and activities, including a Spot the Loris game (with real pictures of pygmy loris hiding in the forests of Vietnam), Posters and a Picture Gallery of the loris at Dao Tien.

This site will be updated regularly so don't forget to visit often and see what's been added!

# Luong the Loris

## Colour Me In



When I go to sleep I curl up in a small ball so I am really well hidden. My brown fur helps me camouflage so I can't be seen by any predators that want to eat me!



# Luong the Loris Face Mask!



I am a pygmy loris from  
Vietnam. I am nocturnal so have  
big eyes to help me see at night.  
You can look like me too with  
this face mask!



# Luong the Loris

Luong has lots to tell people about the life of the loris. You can print out Luong and put him around your school or classroom to let everyone hear what he has to say!

"My name is Luong  
and I am a pygmy  
loris from Vietnam"





## Luong the Loris on...Dao Tien

Dao Tien is a primate rehabilitation and release centre in South Vietnam. One of the animals they work with is the pygmy loris. The team at Dao Tien have set up a small forested area for rescued loris to practice in, so they can learn all the forest skills they need before they are released back into the wild.

"My human friends at Dao Tien are working really hard to help rescued loris get ready to go back to the forest where they belong."



## Luong the Loris on....being tough!

Pygmy loris are very very small primates. They weigh on average just 400-500 grams and are around 21cm long. Despite being small, they are really very feisty. They have sharp teeth and a stinky smell to scare off predators. If you get too close, they will hiss to warn you just how tough they really are!

“Who you  
calling pygmy?”





# Luong the Loris on...hiding

There are thought to be only around 700 pygmy loris left in Vietnam. This is just an estimate though. Loris are so shy and difficult to find in the wild a lot of things are still not known about them. This has a big affect on their conservation, making it harder to protect them against extinction. There is still so much that needs to be learnt about wild loris in Vietnam.

"They seek me here...  
they seek me there...  
I'm a little loris and they  
can't see me anywhere!"



## Luong the Loris on...being stinky

Pygmy loris have scent glands on their wrists which produce a horrible smell to put off predators. They rub this smell all over themselves so they smell really horrible (it smells a lot like really sweaty socks!). This is to stop other animals wanting to eat them. They also use this smell to attract a mate!

"Be afraid...Be very afraid. I stink. REAL bad!"





## Luong the Loris on...being scarier than you look!

Loris and all other primates make terrible pets! Primates can't be domesticated, which means they will never be happy to sit on your lap and be stroked, or behave like a pet rabbit or dog. When they get angry or feel scared, loris will hiss to warn you. Even though they look cute, loris have very sharp teeth and can give a very serious bite when disturbed. Pygmy loris have bacteria in their saliva which often causes infections in humans if left untreated.

"HISSSSSSS.....  
Come any closer  
and I'll bite!"



## Luong the Loris on...not being a pet!

There has been a craze on the internet recently of people 'tickling' their pet loris and posting videos on the internet. Whilst this may look amusing, it is actually a stress response from the loris and means they are very stressed out. Loris die easily from stress. They are not meant to be pets. They deserve freedom in the wild where they belong.

"Don't tickle  
me!"





# Luong the Loris on....telling the world about loris!

The Vietnamese word for loris is Cu Li. Sing along to the Cool Cu Li Jive and tell everyone about how amazing loris are and how they need to be saved. The more people who know about loris, the better chance they have of being saved. Thank you!





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EAST would like to thank Lush Charity Pot for their generous support. The money donated has been used to support our loris rehabilitation and release work at Dao Tien Endangered Primate Species Centre, Vietnam. This includes funding for experienced rangers to monitor loris post-release, and the construction of a semi-forested rehabilitation area for rescued pygmy loris, allowing them to learn the wild skills they need before release.



We would also like to thank Cat Tien National Park, and the Vietnamese Forest Protection Department for all their hard work and support in protecting the wildlife of Vietnam.

Last, but not least, a huge thank you to Monkey World Primate Rescue Centre (UK) and the Pingtung Wildlife Rescue Centre (Taiwan) for their continued support of EAST.

