

Houston Zoo at Home

ORANGUTANS

Orangutans - To the Trees

Orangutans are the only one of the four great apes (orangutan, gorilla, chimpanzee, and bonobo) not native to Africa; they live in the southeast Asian islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Orangutan means “man of the forest” in Malay and Indonesian languages. These great apes, like Rudi, feel most at home up in the trees and off the forest floor and spend over 90% of their time up amongst the leaves. They use their strong arms and grasping feet to swing from tree to tree to move throughout the forest. Our orangutan family at the Houston Zoo enjoy sleeping high up on their perches, making cozy nests from the wood wool their keepers give them!

For these activities watch the video of Zookeeper Cheka and orangutans Rudi and Kelly. [Click here to watch!](#)

Floor is lava!

Ages: 4 and up

Materials: None

Steps:

1. Find a space either in your own house or outside that you can safely move around.
2. Pick a starting point and an ending point
3. See if you can make it between the two points **WITHOUT** touching the floor
4. You can use furniture, blankets, and pillows if you are inside
5. You can use sticks, rocks, and roots of trees if you are outside
6. If your family can make it from one point to the other, try another challenge!
7. Be sure to be safe while playing this game!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Best Nest

Ages: 4 and up

Materials: Clock or Timer

Steps:

1. Pick a place in your house or outside
2. If you are playing inside, it could be in your kitchen or hallway
3. If you are playing outside, it could be near a tree in your yard or in a grassy area
4. Set a time for 90 seconds
5. When the time starts, you have 90 seconds to run and gather materials for your nest and make a comfy bed for yourself
6. If you are playing inside, you might run to your room and grab a pillow, a blanket, or your favorite toy
7. If you are playing outside, you might run and grab some leaves, some flowers, or large sticks
8. When you have your items, try to arrange them in a comfy circle. Where will you put your head? What will you be laying on?
9. When the time ends, see whose nest is best
10. Try out your nest to see how comfy it is. Try out your family member's nest to see how they did as well!

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