



## Ring-Tailed Lemurs STINK FIGHT

This is a fun lesson--retelling a live stink fight between two Ring-Tailed lemurs!

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: *"We're going to write a descriptive story about two male Ring-Tailed lemurs stink fighting to win a female lemur's favor."*
2. Discuss the key facts about the Ring-Tailed lemur and how they actually fight.  
*They live in the spiny forests of Madagascar.  
They have scent glands in their wrists.  
They stand, bring their tail forward from between their legs and wipe their wrist scent all over the end of their tail. Then, they "waft" their tail at the opposing male without ever touching him.  
The female chooses the smelliest male to be her mate.  
In general lemurs communicate through smell. Their specific smells communicate information about themselves and their troops. So the female is considering the smell seriously when choosing a mate.*
3. Decide where the lemurs will fight. This can be realistic or made up. (We wrote as if the lemurs were fighting in a boxing ring in the middle of the spiny forest of Madagascar as a fun detail to our story. Let the kids decide!)
4. Show the 5 sections of the story.
  - a. Introduce the fight
  - b. Describe the 2 lemurs
  - c. Describe the start of the fight
  - d. Describe the fight
  - e. Tell how the female decides.
5. Discuss and list descriptive details for each section:
  - a. Introduce the fight:  
Time of year, Madagascar, spiny forests, a female is set to choose a mate
  - b. Describe the 2 lemurs:  
Older, younger, bigger, smaller, smarter
  - c. Describe the start of the fight:  
Scented the ropes



Moving side to side  
Stand up  
Bounce around  
Pin their ears back  
High squeak

- d. Describe the fight
  - Tails arched over their heads
  - Flicking their tails
  - Wafting their scent
  
- e. Tell how the female decides.
  - Chooses the bigger, stronger, smarter, smellier

Now to write!

Guide the students through the following steps. They are free to use their own words. Remind them that ANYTHING can happen in their story as long as they follow the steps to keep their story organized.

6. Write the introduction naming the time of year or day, the location and the reason for the fight.
  
7. Describe the two lemurs who are going to fight.
  
8. Describe the start of the fight, naming the actions of the two lemurs.
  
9. Describe the fight. Describe their actions in detail. Include what the watching lemurs are doing.
  
10. Tell the actions of the female lemur, who she decides and how she shows it.