

Lesson 3: Resource Sheet 3

Orangutans

The orangutan is the world's largest tree-climbing mammal. Sadly, their forest habitat in Indonesia and Malaysia is rapidly disappearing, putting the future of Asia's only great ape in danger.

Orangutans have characteristic ape-like features, shaggy reddish fur and grasping hands and feet. Their powerful arms are stronger and longer than their legs and can reach 2m in length. They are ideal for swinging from tree-to-tree. Orang-utans can live up to 50 years in the wild.

About 60 per cent of the orangutan's diet consists fruit, such as figs and mangoes. The rest is made up of young leaves and shoots, insects, soil, tree bark, woody vines, and occasionally. They get water not only from fruit, but also from hollows in tree.



Source: 1. Shutterstock; 2–3 BOS Australia [orangutans.com.au]