

Teacher Guide for ASK, Are Boys and Girls Really Different?

May/June 2008

Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator who lives in Toronto Ontario prepared this guide.

Scoops (page 2)

- Explain why female ground squirrels were perfume.
- Describe why you would or would not wear rattlesnake perfume.

Go Fly a Kite (pages 2-3)

- How does a SkySail work?
- Why is this an important innovation?

Frog King (page 3)

- Describe an "armored devil toad".

Nestor's Dock (pages 4-5)

- What different methods of ascent were used by each of the competitors?
- Suggest some other ways you think they may have tried to scale the mountain.

Boys and Girls in the Primate World (pages 6-13)

- Who are members of your primate family?
- Explain this phrase "The differences between the sexes give them each advantages..."

Who's a Tough Guy?

1. Describe how apes are built to have a powerful bite.
2. Why do you think that male gorillas beat their chest?
3. Provide a reason why orangutans have great strength?

Act Your Size!

1. Explain "it's good to be tougher than the next guy..."
2. Explain how lowland gorillas use their strength.

Pretty...and Pretty Loud

1. Why do you think that female mandrills are not created as attractive as the males?
2. How are male red howler monkeys able to be so loud?
3. Explain why red howler monkeys create "dawn choruses".

Family Time

1. Why do primate mothers and babies have such a close relationship?

Culminating Activities

- Complete a chart such as the one below:

Differences Between Male and Female Primates

Male Primates	Female Primates

- Write an essay on one of the following topics:
In your essay compare male and female primates.
Use information from this article to write an essay about primates.
- Choose one of the primates and complete further research on that creature.
Write a report to present to the class.

What Kind of Athlete Are You? (pages 14-16)

- Use a dictionary to find the meaning of each of the following:
static dynamic relaxin
- Have fun testing your athletic ability.

How Different Are Boys and Girls? (pages 17-21)

- Make a speculation about why researchers only studied diseases in men until recently.
- Why were women considered less intelligent than men were in the 1800's?
- Explain what the artwork on the top of page 18 is suggesting.
- Explain how the artwork at the bottom of page 18 is appropriate to the text on the page.
- In the past, girls did not score as well on science tests. Explain this statement.
- In your opinion, what has changed the previous statement today?
- What is **spatial rotation**?
- Explain why boys were better at spatial rotation in the past.
- Tell why girls seem to do better at language and vocabulary tests.
- Describe what scientists have discovered so far about the differences between girls' and boys' brains.

Super Spy Techniques (pages 22-23)

There are 6 spy techniques listed on these pages. Divide the class into 6 groups. Assign one of the techniques to each group. Ask the students to do the following:

- Read the passage.
- Make a written report about the information.
- Create pictures or posters to accompany the report.
- Suggest strengths and weaknesses of the technique.
- Make an oral presentation to the rest of the class.

Emma Edmonds: Master of Disguise (pages 24-27)

- How did Emma convince the War Department that she would make a good spy?
- How did Emma get into the Confederate camp?
- What information did Emma obtain in this camp?
- Describe Emma's next disguise.
- Tell about her experience as Bridget O'Shea.
- Why do you think that Emma wanted to be a spy?

Jimmy the Bug (page 32)

- Describe the "startle reaction".
- What does your hypothalamus cause your body to do?

Marvin and Friends

- Explain the message that is being presented in this comic strip.