



Reading

- 1 Listen and read the article. What's special about tarsier babies?

Tarsiers have been living on the islands of south-east Asia for the last 45 million years and they're one of the oldest land animals there. They are cute little animals with big eyes and they look like monkeys. Like owls, tarsiers can move their head and neck, but not their eyes. Because of their long ankle bones, they can jump from branch to branch and travel very long distances without touching the ground!

Tarsiers live in and around the base of bamboo trees in rainforests. As they are nocturnal, they are less active during the day and more active during the night. They eat lizards, bats, snakes and birds, but mosquitoes are their favourite food! When young tarsiers are born, they have got fur and their big eyes are open. Baby tarsiers learn quickly. They can climb trees when they are two days old and jump when they are four days old!

Unfortunately, there are only between 5,000 and 10,000 tarsiers in the world today. Their population has become smaller in the past few years for two reasons. The first is that people have been destroying their natural habitat and the second is that hunters have been catching and selling them for pets in countries like Japan and Mexico. Conservationists have been trying to protect them from extinction and they have created a man-made rainforest on the island of Bohol in the Philippines. Philippine tarsiers are not yet on the list of endangered species, but will be in the next five years if the present protection programmes are stopped.

Did you know?

There are over 1,500 species that are endangered across the world today.

Comprehension

- 2 Choose the correct answers.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Tarsiers can't move their ____.</p> <p>a necks</p> <p>b eyes</p> | <p>4 Hunters catch and ____ tarsiers.</p> <p>a kill</p> <p>b sell</p> |
| <p>2 They are ____ at night.</p> <p>a more active</p> <p>b less active</p> | <p>5 Philippine tarsiers ____ on the list of endangered species.</p> <p>a are</p> <p>b aren't</p> |
| <p>3 They can ____ two days after they're born.</p> <p>a climb</p> <p>b open their eyes</p> | |

Vocabulary

- 3 Match some of the highlighted words with these meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 damage something badly | _____ |
| 2 not natural | _____ |
| 3 the home of a plant or animal | _____ |
| 4 a bird with large eyes | _____ |
| 5 active at night | _____ |
| 6 thick soft hair on animals' bodies | _____ |