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This is a story about monkeys that help people take care of themselves.

Monkeys at Work

Have you ever seen an organ grinder with a monkey? The organ grinder plays music while the monkey dances. The monkey is small and thin. It has a lot of energy. The monkey you see with an organ grinder is called a capuchin monkey. A capuchin monkey can do more than dance. It can help people who are paralyzed. People who are paralyzed cannot move parts of their bodies. Some people cannot move their legs. Some people cannot move their arms or their legs. They need a special helper. A service monkey can become the arms or legs for a person.

Monkey helpers are raised by a group called Helping Hands. The people at Helping Hands train the monkeys to work with people. They train about 50 monkeys at a time. Helping Hands uses only capuchin monkeys. These monkeys are very curious. They have a strong grip so they can use buttons and switches. They are small, so they can move around in an apartment or a house.



What can the monkey do? It can take food from a refrigerator. It can cook the food in the microwave. Then it can feed the food to its partner. It can get the partner's medicine. It can turn on the TV. It can turn the pages of a book. It can put on a person's glasses or headphones. It can move a person's arms or legs. The monkey can even scratch an itch.

It takes a long time to train a service monkey. Monkeys may live with foster families for more than five years. They learn to live in a house with a family. Then the monkeys go to "Monkey College" where they learn how to help people who are paralyzed. They learn to obey voice commands or laser commands. It takes 3 to 4 more years to train the monkeys to do everyday jobs for people. The monkeys need care when they are placed with an person. Someone must feed them and put them in a cage at night. They work only in the daytime!

Monkeys can work with their partners for over 20 years. These are very special partners!



Understanding the Story

Here are some questions about the story that you just read. Read each one. Then fill in the circle beside the best answer. If you are not sure, go back and look at the story again.

1. What kind of monkeys are trained by Helping Hands?

- (A) Long-tailed monkeys
- (B) Capuchin monkeys
- (C) Organ grinders
- (D) Foster monkeys

Factual

2. What is one way a service monkey is helpful in the house?

- (A) They are small.
- (B) They like the indoors.
- (C) They can microwave food.
- (D) They can run a vacuum cleaner.

Inference

3. What is something a monkey helper probably cannot do?

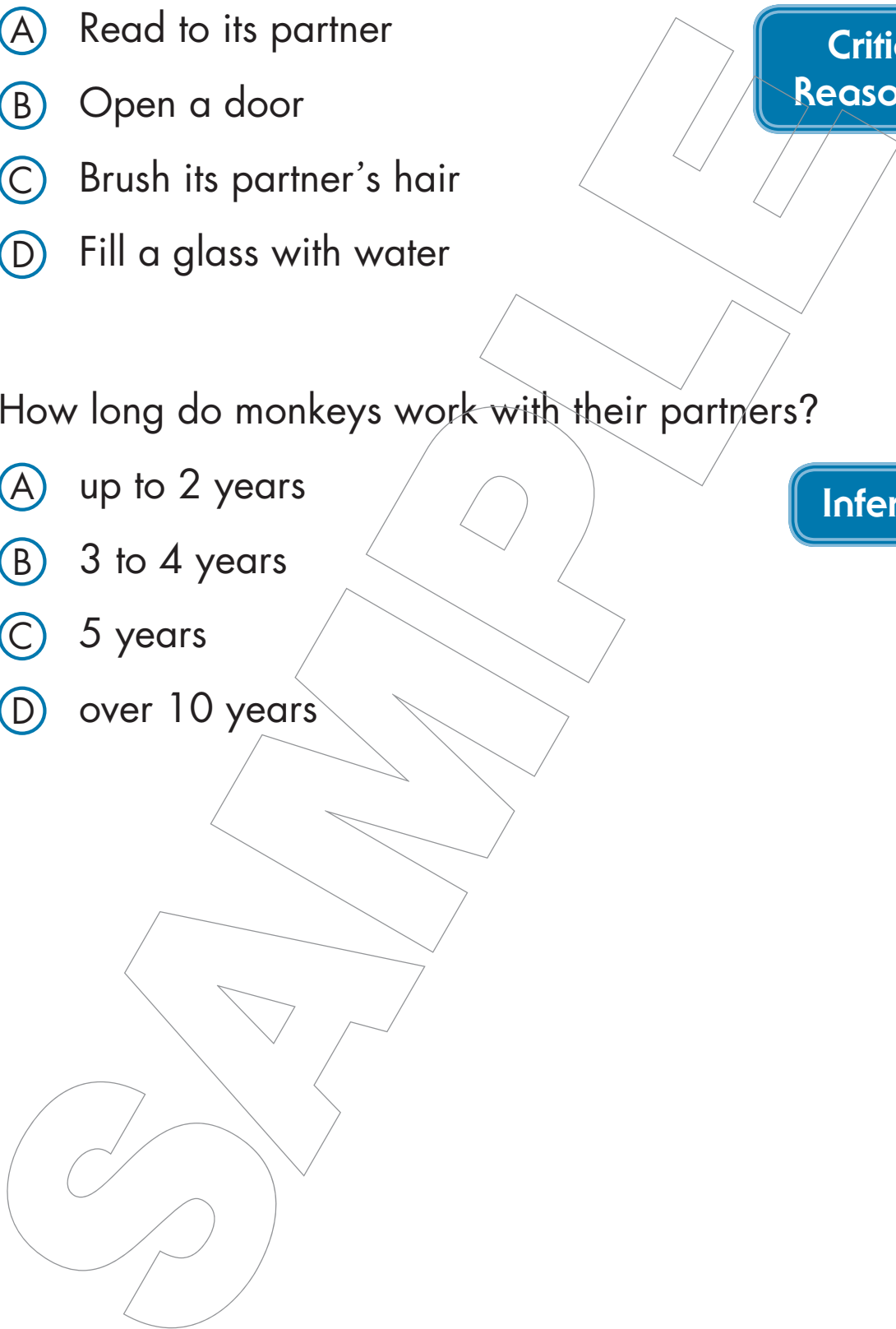
- (A) Read to its partner
- (B) Open a door
- (C) Brush its partner's hair
- (D) Fill a glass with water

Critical Reasoning

4. How long do monkeys work with their partners?

- (A) up to 2 years
- (B) 3 to 4 years
- (C) 5 years
- (D) over 10 years

Inference



5. Why are capuchin monkeys a good choice for service monkeys?

- (A) They do not cost a lot of money.
- (B) They can learn in a very short time.
- (C) They are small and strong.
- (D) There are a lot of them.

Critical Reasoning

6. Why is being a monkey helper hard work?

- (A) The monkeys have to lift heavy things.
- (B) The monkeys have to work 24 hours a day.
- (C) The monkeys must do many different jobs.
- (D) The monkeys must learn to do laundry.

Critical Reasoning

SAMPLE



Summing Up



Monkey helpers have very busy lives. They do many different jobs for their partners. Write about what the monkeys do in the circles below. One idea has already been written for you.



Why are capuchin monkeys used?

They are small

How are the monkeys trained?

**Monkey
Helpers**

What do monkeys do for their owners?



Write About It

You have learned a lot about service monkeys in this story. Imagine you are writing a magazine story about the monkeys. You will want to include photographs with your story.

Draw two pictures of photographs you would like to have in your story. Then write a caption for each photograph. Use the information from page 17 for your photographs and captions.

