

# Term Four Week Three:

## Wednesday Reading Task

Read the text then respond to the comprehension questions below.

### **‘The Pygmy Marmoset’**



Pygmy marmosets, sometimes called pocket monkeys, are the smallest monkeys in the world. They live by the edges of rivers in tropical forests in the north-west of South America.

Fully grown pygmy marmosets can comfortably fit in a human hand. Their tiny bodies measure about 14–16 centimetres long, not including the tail which can add another 20 centimetres to the length. They only weigh around 120 grams—that's less than an apple. In spite of their small size, these tiny animals can jump more than four metres, or over 30 times their own body length. That's quite a distance for such small creatures!

Because these monkeys are so small and light, they can move along slender branches higher into the trees than other monkeys. There they feed on their favourite food, the sap of the trees. They also eat fruit and insects such as grasshoppers.

Pygmy marmosets have to watch out for birds of prey and other creatures like snakes and cats that think they are a tasty meal. They dash about quickly from one safe place to the next. Their necks are very flexible and they can rotate their heads backwards to check for danger.

The female pygmy marmoset usually gives birth to twins, each about the size of a human thumb. The male helps in the birth and then takes over caring for the babies, carrying them around on his back for the first two weeks and bringing them back to the mother to feed.



## Question Time

### 1. The photograph emphasises

- how small a pygmy marmoset is.
- how much a pygmy marmoset likes humans.
- how long a pygmy marmoset's tail is.
- how many legs a pygmy marmoset has.

### 2. A map is included to show

- where South America is.
- the area where the pygmy marmoset is found.
- a wildlife conservation area in South America.
- rivers where the pygmy marmoset lives.

### 3. Why can pygmy marmosets climb higher than other monkeys?

- They move very quickly.
- They can jump a long way.
- They have long tails.
- They are very light.

**4. According to the text, what is the preferred food of pygmy marmosets?**

- nuts
- insects
- sap
- fruit

**5. In the text, what is compared in size to a human thumb?**

- a pygmy marmoset's thumb
- a newborn pygmy marmoset
- a pygmy marmoset's tail
- a male pygmy marmoset

**6. Pygmy marmosets have soft brown fur. This information could be added to**

- paragraph 2.
- paragraph 3.
- paragraph 4.
- paragraph 5.

Why did you select this option? Explain your reasoning.