

Animals We Love:

MOUSEDDEER

Recommended for primary school children

Let's learn more about mousedeer:

1 The lesser mousedeer is among the world's smallest hoofed animals. It weighs only about 2kg.

2 Found only in our nature reserves, the lesser mousedeer is listed as critically endangered in Singapore. Its larger cousin, the greater mousedeer, was thought to be extinct in Singapore. In 2006, it was sighted on Pulau Ubin after over 80 years and subsequent studies confirmed its surprising comeback.



3 Male mousedeer have long canines or 'tusks' that protrude from the corners of their mouth. These tusks are used for defence and to fight rival males.

A mousedeer foraging for fallen fruits and fungi on the forest floor.

The 'tusks' of male mousedeer are razor sharp.



4 Mousedeer play an important role in regenerating forests. They feed on fallen fruits and help to disperse the undigested seeds as they move through the forests.

5 Sang Kancil, the mousedeer, is portrayed in Malay folklore as a quick-witted character who always outwits large predators like the crocodile and tiger.

Use the See-Think-Wonder Thinking Routine* to start a conversation with your child

*Adapted from Project Zero, Harvard Graduate School of Education



SEE

- Mimic the posture of the mousedeer.
- Create a riddle based on the physical features you see in this mousedeer. You may want to start with "What has...?"
- Observe the position of the mousedeer's eyes. How is it different from the position of your own eyes (use a mirror)?

THINK

- How does the position of the mousedeer's eyes help the animal survive better in the rainforest?
- What do you think the mousedeer might use its sharp canine teeth for?

WONDER

- I wonder how long the canine of a mousedeer can grow.

Activity Time!

I am a Wildlife Photographer

 1 or more players

 Anything around the house

STEP 1: Watch the [video](#) and [visit Singapore Zoo's web page on Fragile Forest](#).

STEP 2: Mousedeer are shy animals and may be startled by sudden movements or when people get too close to them. Imagine you were a wildlife photographer. Your task is to photograph the mousedeer.

STEP 3: Grab items around the house to camouflage yourself so that the mousedeer does not notice you. Stay well-hidden and ask a family member to find you.

***Bonus Challenge:** Wildlife photographers sometimes stay in tiny man-made huts or hides to capture the perfect moment. Build your own hide using things you can find around the house. Or sketch your design on paper and detail the natural materials you will use from the forest.*



The Number Game

 2 or more players

 Your sharp eyesight

STEP 1: Watch the [video](#) without making any pauses. Create a table to help you record the species of animals and also how many of each species you can spot in the video.

STEP 2: Use another table to work out the total number of legs, wings, eyes and beaks you have observed in the video.

***Bonus Challenge:** The word 'mousedeer' can be singular or plural. We would say one mousedeer or 50 mousedeer - it is an irregular plural noun. Can you list three other irregular plural nouns?*