

The Great Banana

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Many people think that we are the only creatures that look to the stars and see pictures, but there are others that look up and see things. Where we see the Big Dipper in the sky at night, the gorillas and monkeys see the Great Banana. Here is why...

Once upon a time, a great banana tree grew in the jungle. It was taller than all the others around it. The King of the Gorillas waited patiently beneath the tree for the first bananas to ripen, so he could shake them down. He was as strong as he was patient, but there was another one who also knew of the tree.

The King of the Monkeys was sneaky and fast. He also loved bananas very much. He waited nearby the great banana tree. He watched the Gorilla King and laughed. He knew that he could climb quickly and steal the banana before the Gorilla could shake it down. So, the Monkey King waited, too.

When the first giant banana had finally ripened, the Monkey King snuck up the back of the tree and took it. The Gorilla King smelled something suspicious, because he never trusted monkeys. He glanced up and saw the Monkey King stealing his banana! With great anger, he shook the tree, and the Monkey King fell from the tree, still holding the banana.

Upon the ground, the two kings struggled to have the banana. They could not share, and they could not give up. Finally, as the two squeezed and fought for the banana, it shot out of their hands with great force. The banana sailed high into the sky and became caught in the stars.

Sadly, the great banana tree had been destroyed in their fight, and the two kings had become enemies. The Great Banana still hangs in the sky to remind them of their selfishness. The banana had been big enough to share, but they had chosen not to.



The Great Banana

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does the Gorilla King want?
 - A. a big melon
 - B. a great banana
 - C. a new hat
 - D. a giant carrot

2. How does the Gorilla King plan to get the banana?
 - A. He will climb the tree.
 - B. He will wait for it to fall.
 - C. He will shake it down from the tree.
 - D. None of the above

3. Who also wants the banana?
 - A. the Monkey King
 - B. the Hippo King
 - C. the Chimpanzee King
 - D. the Orangutan King

4. What happened when the two Kings wanted the banana?
 - A. they decided to share
 - B. they took turns getting bananas
 - C. they played a game to decide who gets it
 - D. they fought over it

5. What lesson does the Great Banana in the sky represent?
 - A. don't be selfish
 - B. fight hard for what you want
 - C. never give up
 - D. be sneaky

The Great Banana – Answer Key

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What does the Gorilla King want?
 - A. a big melon
 - B. a great banana**
 - C. a new hat
 - D. a giant carrot
2. How does the Gorilla King plan to get the banana?
 - A. He will climb the tree.
 - B. He will wait for it to fall.
 - C. He will shake it down from the tree.**
 - D. None of the above
3. Who also wants the banana?
 - A. the Monkey King**
 - B. the Hippo King
 - C. the Chimpanzee King
 - D. the Orangutan King
4. What happened when the two Kings wanted the banana?
 - A. they decided to share
 - B. they took turns getting bananas
 - C. they played a game to decide who gets it
 - D. they fought over it**
5. What lesson does the Great Banana in the sky represent?
 - A. don't be selfish**
 - B. fight hard for what you want
 - C. never give up
 - D. be sneaky