

## Aye-Aye

### Classification

- K.** \_\_Anamalia\_\_
- P.** \_\_Chorodata\_\_
- C.** \_\_Mammalia\_\_
- O.** \_\_Primates\_\_
- F.** \_\_Daubentoniidae\_\_
- G.** \_\_Daubentonia\_\_
- S.** \_\_Madagascariens\_\_

### Life Cycle/ Reproduction

Sexual maturity for Aye-ayes occurs at about 2-3 years of age. When they're in estrus female Aye-ayes will call repeatedly to get the attention of males. Visual cues such as genital color change and swelling also alert males to the female's estrus. Aye-ayes are polyandrous, meaning that the females mate with several males. They usually only have one infant and gestation ranges from 160-170 days or about 5-6 months. Infants are feed (drink their mother's milk) for about 7 months and leave their mothers after two years.

### Picture



### Physical Features

- Adult Aye-ayes have black or dark brown fur covered by white guard hairs at the neck.
- The tail is bushy and shaped like a squirrel's.
- Aye-aye's face is rodent-like.
- Aye-ayes have bright, beady, and luminous eyes.
- Possesses opposable thumbs, but both the hallux and the fingers are long and thin, and appear to be in a curved position.

### Interesting Facts

- Aye-ayes are the largest nocturnal primates.
- Aye-ayes are one of the few solitary primates.
- Aye-ayes are killed in some parts of Madagascar because they are believed to be harbingers of death or misfortune or because they are agricultural pests. In other parts of the island, however, they are admired.
- Aye-ayes are the only primates thought to use echolocation to find prey.
- Its incisors are very large, and grow continuously throughout its lifespan.

### Habitat

Aye-ayes live in forests in Madagascar, mainly on the Eastern coast. They spend most of their time in trees, and build nests to sleep in during the day. They dwell in canopy areas. Weather is humid, damp, and wet throughout the year.