

My Orangutan Adventure

For my summer holidays, I set out into wild rainforests of Sumatra in search one of the most intelligent and endangered primates in the world, the orangutan. To find this elusive 'man of the forest,' I had to travel to Aceh province, the last remaining habitat of the Sumatran Orangutan.

My journey to Aceh was filled with spectacular views, but not with comfort. I spent 12 hours crammed into a public bus to Lake Toba, swerving through the mountain roads, surrounded by car sick people, and forced to listen to awful Acehnese karaoke music all night long. I rented a motor bike in Lake Toba and drove for eight hours through the mountains. It was an incredible journey through lush plantations and tropical forests, but unfortunately it rained the entire time.

Finally, I arrived at my guesthouse and found a guide to take me into the jungle. Jhon, my guide, loved the forest and was very skilled at finding animals. In the first hour of our two day hike, we saw a Thomas-leaf monkey, also called a punk monkey because of its Mohawk hairdo. That same day we saw giant hornbills that swooped through the jungle making a loud buzzing sound, but there was no sign of the orangutan.

After a full day of hiking, we set up camp by a river. Sleeping in the jungle was an unforgettable experience. At night the whole forest comes alive with sounds of insects and animals. Laying in my tent, listening to the gibbon calls and owls hooting was magical.

The next morning, we began our hike again. From a distance, we heard a hooting sound echoing through the trees, louder than any other jungle sound. Jhon said that it was a large, male organutan, which is very rarely seen by humans. We quietly followed the sound until Jhon froze and handed me his binoculars. High above us, near the top of the canopy, we could see a small orange spot, then another, and another. All together, there were eight organutans above us in the towering fig tree.

As we sat and watched them, the massive organge male slowly climbed down the tree to get some lower fruit until he was less than 10 metres away from us. When he looked down and saw two grinning human beings below him, he was not happy. He began breaking branches and throwing them down, while hooting loudly in his deep, booming voice. Both jhon and I could hardly contain our excitement at seeing this huge primate so close. Later that day, we saw many more organhutans, gibbons and punk monkeys before arriving back at the village.

Seeing an wild orangutan was one of the highlight of my summer. However, I was saddened to think that there are only a small number of these amazing creatures left in the world. Seeing the beauty and magic of the rainforest has helped me understand how important it is that we change our destructive ways and learn to live in balance with nature.

Text Organizer

Orientation • introduction - setting the scene

Gives details of:

- Who, what.
- When.
- Where.
- Why.

Events • what happened - in chronological order

What happened?

- First ...
- Next ...
- Soon ...
- During ...
- After ...
- Later ...
- Eventually ...
- Finally ...

Hide details 

Conclusion • personal comment (optional)

What did you think, feel or decide about the events that happened?

Recount TIPS:

Set the scene.

- Who, what
- When
- Where
- Why

Write about the events in the order they happened.

End with a comment.

New paragraph for each part.

Word focus:

- time connectives
- adjectives

Tense:

- past

Style:

- Personal
- First person


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Wow! Did I ever have an amazing holiday! For my summer holidays, I set out into wild rainforests of Sumatra in search one of the most intelligent and endangered primates in the world, the orangutan. To find this elusive 'man of the forest,' I had to travel to Aceh province, the last remaining habitat of the Sumatran Orangutan.

"Honk! Honk!" The bus to Aceh was the loudest and most uncomfortable bus in the world! I was on my way to the rainforests of Sumatra in search of wild orangutans.

Can you imagine encountering a wild, angry orangutan face to face in the middle of the jungle?

Orangutans are some of the most endangered animals in the world.

1. Dialogue

"Hurry or you'll be late!" called my mother from the bottom of the stairs. "Today of all days you want to be on time." If I had only know what that day would bring, I would have stayed in bed.

2. A Question

Have you ever had a day when you wished you had stayed in bed? As I rushed to catch the bus on what seemed to be a perfectly normal day I had no idea what was ahead of me.

3. A Vivid Description

The sun was warm on my back as I raced toward the waiting yellow school bus. As I nestled into the worn leather seat I was greeted by the friendly voices of other excited children. The look on my face was one of confidence and contentment. With a jerk the bus rumbled down the road and I was on my way into one of the worst days of my life.

4. An Interesting Fact

Shock has been known to kill ten year olds. It can cause their brains to explode and their heart to stop dead still. These facts raced through my mind as I stood dumbfounded in front of my fourth grade classmates. I wish I had stayed in bed!

5. Sound Effects

"Bzzzzzz!" The sound of my alarm clock droned in my ears as I struggled to come awake. With a start I sat straight up in my bed. This was my big day and I had to be on time.

Revision Checklist

Ideas

- ✓ It's easy to tell what my main idea is. You won't have to guess.
- ✓ Details expand my main idea and add interest.
- ✓ I avoided generalities and common knowledge.
- ✓ I know my topic well. You will learn something from reading my writing.

Organization

- ✓ I stick with my topic- I do not wander down side roads.
- ✓ My lead will hook you. It sets up what follows.
- ✓ The pattern fits, so my writing is easy to follow, like a good road map.
- ✓ Transitions build bridges between ideas.
- ✓ My conclusion brings everything to closure and leaves you thinking

Voice

- ✓ This sounds like me. It is distinctive and individual.
- ✓ You will want to share my writing aloud.
- ✓ I like this topic- and it shows.
- ✓ My writing is full of energy and life.
- ✓ This voice is just right for my audience and purpose.

Word Choice

- ✓ Every word I chose makes sense.
- ✓ The way I use my words helps me make meaning clear.
- ✓ Strong verbs and adjectives give my writing a boost of power.
- ✓ Sensory words help my readers see, feel, hear, taste, or smell things.
- ✓ My writing is clutter free- I cut what was not needed.

Sentence Fluency

- ✓ My writing is smooth and natural- easy to read with expression.
- ✓ Sentences range from short and snappy to long and graceful.
- ✓ My sentences beginnings are varied, and I avoid run-ons.
- ✓ If I use dialogue, it sounds like real people speaking.

Conventions

- ✓ You'd have to hunt to find errors in my paper.
- ✓ I checked all conventions, top to bottom.
- ✓ I read this paper aloud- and silently to track down any errors.
- ✓ This writing is ready to publish without further errors.