

# Animals We Love:

# MOUSEDDEER

Recommended for preschoolers

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.



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

**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.

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

- List down all the colours you can see on the mousedeer.
- Use five words to describe the mousedeer in the photograph.
- What can you spot in the habitat of the mousedeer?

## THINK

- How do you think a mousedeer protect itself?
- Give the mousedeer a new name. What made you come up with this name?

## WONDER

- I wonder where can we find a wild mousedeer in Singapore.

# Activity Time!



## I Spy... With My Little Eye



1 or more  
players



Your sharp  
eyesight

**STEP 1:** Watch the [video](#) on the mousedeer.

**STEP 2:** Count the number of mousedeer in the entire video.



## Hand Printing



At least 1 adult  
and 1 child



Washable paint/  
watercolours,  
paintbrush, drawing  
paper and markers

**STEP 1:** Observe the photograph of the mousedeer. Use a paintbrush to paint your palm with your favourite colour. Spread your fingers open and press your painted palm onto a piece of drawing paper. Leave it to dry.

**STEP 2:** Look at your dried handprint. Which parts of your handprint resemble the head and the legs of a mousedeer?

**STEP 3:** Observe the photograph again. Use a marker to add the missing features to your handprint 'mousedeer'.



Mandai  
**Singapore  
Zoo**

Try out this activity when you visit us!



## I Spy...



2 or more  
players



Looking eyes

**STEP 1:** There are many free-ranging mousedeer in Fragile Forest. Look out for them on the forest floor, among the plants.

- How many mousedeer can you spot as you explore Fragile Forest?
- How many of them have long canine/tusks?

**STEP 2:** How many are resting? How many are eating? Note down what each of the mousedeer are doing.

**STEP 3:** How many different actions can you spot? Work with your family members and list down as many actions as you can. Who can spot more actions?