Photographing the Monkeys

Written by Geng Shouzhong
Illustrated by Lu Wei and Zhang Wenzhi
“Come and look, come and look! The monkeys are asking Photographer Panda to take a picture of their whole family!”
On hearing the elephant's cry, the kangaroo, the giraffe and the black bear all rush over.
The monkeys have a really large family. They began waiting in front of the camera a long time ago. Some are trying to push to the front for fear of being left out.
Photographer Panda is very quick-minded. He has a bright idea and cries out, "Line up, all of you. Everyone should wait for his turn."
The rhesus monkey does not seem to have heard the panda. He comes near the camera, touches here and examines there. He is the most naughty and mischievous of all.
When Photographer Panda asks him to line up and wait for his turn, the rhesus monkey says, “Take my picture first! Take my picture first!”
After saying this, he sits on the stool to wait. “You are jumping in line. Shame on you! Shame on you!” the others all shout angrily. “Your cheeks are so puffed up, I guess you are trying to look imposing,” the panda says with a smile.
Blushing, the rhesus monkey says, “Let the others have their pictures taken first. I'll go to the end of the line.” No one knows that the rhesus monkey has two cheek pouches and has hidden a lot of food in them.
The baboon from Africa is now at the head of the line. He combs his long hair over his shoulders, and then strikes a pose.
The next in line is the tarsier, who is very small. He is a bit bashful. He loved to live alone and has seldom experienced such a bustling scene.
Photographer Panda affectionately holds the tarsier in his arms. The tarsier is so nervous that he is all confused.
Photographer Panda places the tarsier on the bench in front of the camera. Click! He catches a splendid shot of the tarsier.
Next comes the golden monkey, a very precious animal. His home is in the mountainous forests of China’s Sichuan, Gansu and Shaanxi provinces.
Photographer Panda helps the golden monkey fix his beautiful golden hair.
The golden monkey seems a bit uneasy, so the Tonkins langur tries to tease him. Click! Photographer Panda seizes a quick shot of the golden monkey as he smiles.
With a turn of his camera, Photographer Panda takes a shot of the Tonkins langur, who comes from China’s southern Guangxi Province and northern Vietnam.
Next is the white-headed langur, who also lives in southern Guangxi Province. The white-headed langur is a rare animal specific to China.
At this moment, the vervet guenon from Africa comes over. She asks the panda to take a picture for her with her son.
As the two of them sit down, the father monkey arrives just in time. Photographer Panda clicks the shutter and gets a group shot of the family.
The black and white colobus monkey also comes forward, requesting a portrait of her with her son.
Photographer Panda is delighted to take picture for the mother and son, who have white hair all over their bodies.
Now it's the howler monkey's turn. He comes from the forests of Mexico and Argentina. His loud shouting can be heard from as far away as four kilometres.
How can the howler monkey's personality be captured? The panda gets an idea. "Where is your pal, Brother Howling Monkey?" he asks.
“He is right over there,” quips the titi who is standing nearby. As the howler monkey calls to his friend at the top of his lungs, Photographer Panda quickly shoots his impressive pose.
The spider-monkey who lives in the forests of Mexico and Uruguay also comes up and wants to have his picture taken.
When the panda finishes shooting the titi, he points to his long tail and asks, "You and the spider-monkey both have long tails. Are they used in the same way?"
The spider-monkey chips in quickly: “He is a long-tailed monkey but his tail cannot twirl. I am a twisting-tail monkey and my tail is as nimble as a hand.” So saying, he winds his tail around a branch and the photographer catches this interesting shot of him.
The next model is the mandrill, who has a big head, a short tail and a fierce look. He lives in the forests of West Africa.
After taking the mandrill’s picture, Photographer Panda suddenly discovers that he has not taken a picture of the rhesus monkey. So he shouts loudly, “Rhesus Monkey, come quickly and have your picture taken!”
The rhesus monkey has brought with him a little friend with a small head, small ears and large, round eyes. "May I have my picture taken together with Brother Night Monkey?" he asks.
The panda is a bit perplexed: "Why do you call him night monkey?"
The rhesus monkey replies, "He sleeps during the daytime and plays at night, so everybody calls him night monkey."
The rhesus monkey places a hand on the shoulder of the night monkey, who stares curiously at the camera with his large eyes. Photographer Panda takes the picture for them.
Finally, Photographer Panda directs everyone to stand together for a family portrait.
Suddenly, the gorilla, the chimpanzee, the orangutan and the gibbon all come over, saying, “Photographer Panda, why don’t you let us know when you plan to photograph the monkeys?”
The mandrill says, “We of the monkey family are having our pictures taken, but why are you here? You are manlike apes and are not part of our family.”
The chimpanzee says with a smile, “We will have our own group photo. Who needs to mix with you?”
“That’s right,” Photographer Panda says, “I can take separate family photos of those of you with tails and those without.”
So two family photos were taken: one of the monkeys and one of the manlike apes.