

# Madagascar Discovery

**Narrator:** Biologist Mireya Mayor is in Madagascar. She and her team are looking for a specific type of mouse lemur.

**Mireya Mayor:** What's going on now is that the team has cleared this area by pulling all the trees from the mouse lemur's surroundings so that it can't jump to them.

**Narrator:** This is it. It may be the smallest primate in the world. It's a new species of primate only found in Madagascar. Scientists haven't identified it yet.

**Mireya Mayor:** Whew, yeah! We got it. Hey, hey. It's so cute. Huge eyes—they are incredibly alert and wide right now.

**Narrator:** Biologists don't have a lot of information about mouse lemurs, but they do know a few things. For example, they are the smallest primates in the world. At night, they eat fruit and insects, and find water on leaves and branches.

They are classified as primates for a few reasons. They have 10 fingers and 10 toes—with nails, not claws. They also have opposable thumbs, like humans. Their eyes face forward, not sideways. They also have large brains. These are all features of primates.

The scientists take photos of their new lemur and do some tests before they release it.

**Mireya Mayor:** It's really difficult to take blood from an animal this small just because its veins are so tiny, but we were able to get enough out to get DNA to confirm the uniqueness of the species.

And there she is. She's free!