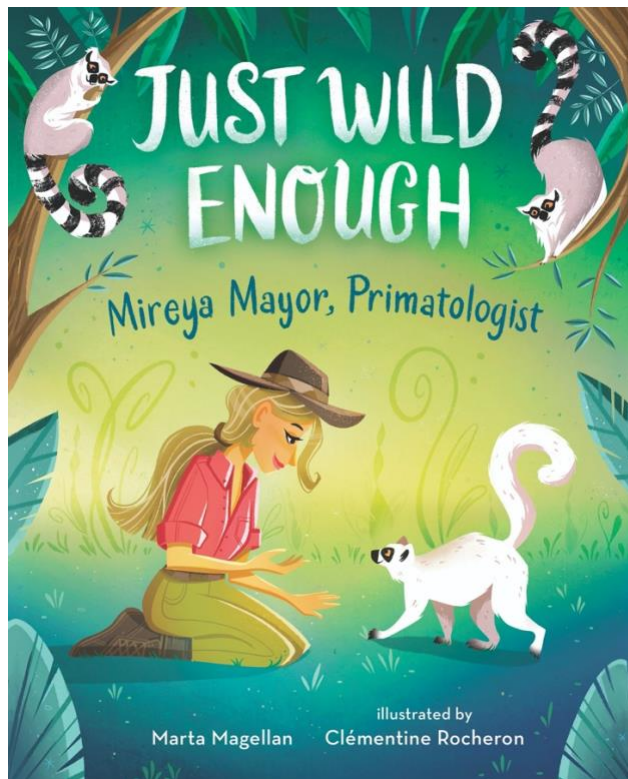


# JUST WILD ENOUGH

## MIREYA MAYOR, PRIMATOLOGIST

by Marta Magellan

### A teacher's guide



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**Marta Magellan** was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and lives in Miami, Florida. Her published nonfiction books for children have won several awards (Florida Book Award, California Reading Association Eureka Award, 2020 Writer's Digest Writing Competition, Russell Freedman Nonfiction Books for a Better World, Green Earth Award, among others). She has received positive reviews from *Booklist*, *School Library Journal*, *Kirkus*, *Family Magazine*, *Midwest Book Review*, *San Francisco Book Review*, and others. She taught Composition, Creative Writing, and Survey of Children's Literature, at Miami Dade College, where she was a full professor and adviser.

Website: [www.marta.magellan.com](http://www.marta.magellan.com)

Twitter/ Instagram @MartaMagellan

Goodreads: [https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2917754.Marta\\_Magellan](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/2917754.Marta_Magellan)

# English Language Arts

## Reading Comprehension

### Looking at the front cover.

- Who do you think the woman is? What is she doing?
- What do you think a **primatologist** is?
- When do you think this story takes place? Present day, or the past? Why do you think so?
- Where do you think this story takes place? The US or a different country?
- Can you guess what this book is about? (Clues are everywhere).

### Speaking and Listening Activity - dramatic reading and acting

- For very young children: As the teacher reads the story out loud, have students act out the scenes (catching a lizard, examining it, letting it go, twirling and whirling, cheerleading etc.). Pay attention to body motion and facial expressions.

**Reading the book:** *Just Wild Enough, Mireya Mayor Primatologist*, there are many wild animals mentioned in this book. There might be a few you didn't know (in order of appearance):

- Anole: pronounced a-NO-lee. A small lizard found in Mireya Mayor's back yard.
- Gazelle- pronounced gah-ZEL. A fast hoofed animal from Africa.
- Dolphins- An ocean mammal (and also a Miami football team). The *ph* is an *f* sound in this word.
- Primates- A group of animals, around 300 types, like monkeys, gorillas, chimpanzees, lemurs and more (including humans).
- Orangutan-pronounced o-RAN-gu-tan, It is an ape with long reddish hair, lives in trees.
- Lemurs- pronounced LEE-murs- a tree-living primate only found in Madagascar (an island off Africa that is important in this book)
- Geckos- pronounced GEH-kos- a small lizard that has sticky pads on its feet so it can climb up smooth surfaces.

If there are other words you don't know, try sounding them out or looking at the pictures to see what makes sense. You also can look the words up in a dictionary or on the internet. Here are some important words from the book you might need to look up:

- Primatologist

- Species
- Rain forest
- Habitat
- Endangered
- Extinct

**Comprehension Questions & Writing Prompts:**

Where did this story begin? (Hint: Mireya’s house, in a place with palm trees and lizards—where are there palm trees and lizards in the United States?)

Did you know that Madagascar was a real island?

Where is Madagascar?

Had you ever heard of lemurs before you read this book? Why is one species (type) called *mouse lemur*?

A lot of animals like the mouse lemur are endangered. What does that mean?

What word do scientists use to describe animals that are no longer living (like dinosaurs)?

**Let’s discuss the people who created *Just Wild Enough, Mireya Mayor, Primateologist***

Who is the author?

Who is the illustrator?

What kind of work did each person do to make the book?

**Learn from Reading a Nonfiction book**

While reading *Just Wild Enough, Mireya Mayor Primateologist*, have students (individually/ in group/ whole class) fill the first two columns:

Things we Learned from the book	Questions we had before and during reading	Answers we found
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- After reading, discuss the “Questions we had before and during reading”.
  - Were these questions answered in the story?
  - If so, find the answer within the text.
  - Write down the answer in the “Answers we found ” column.
  
- Find answers for remaining questions in the “Questions we had before and during reading” through internet or book research.
  - Discuss how to find answers through research.
  - Which is your favorite way to find answers, on the internet or in a book?
  - Do you trust a printed book or internet more? Why?
  - How can you determine whether to trust something on the internet?
  - Write down answers in the “Answers we found” column.

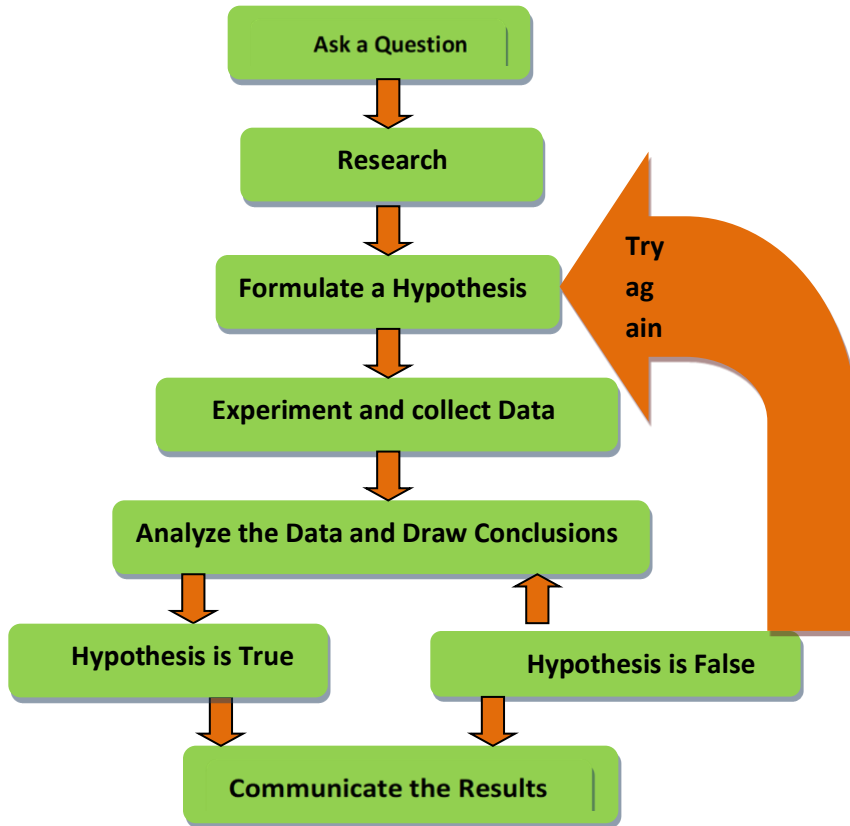
### Writing Prompts

1. Does your city have a zoo? What primates do they have there? Write about your experience.
2. Have you ever seen a real lemur? Look at a picture of a mouse lemur online. Write a paragraph or two to describe it.
3. Mireya’s mother would not let her join the Girl Scouts because she thought camping outdoors was “too dangerous.” If you’ve been camping, write about either how safe your experience was or a danger you faced while outdoors.
4. Write about something you learned when you were on an outing in nature that you didn’t know before.

## Science

Mireya used the scientific method to discover a new species of lemur.

Scientific Method:



Check out the following steps in the research of Mireya Mayor and identify which part of the scientific method each belongs to:

- A. Mireya questioned why one mouse lemur looked different. (Ask a question)
- B. She spent weeks trying to capture the different little lemur. (Research)
- C. She made an educated guess that this lemur was a new species. (Formulate a hypothesis)
- D. She performed an experiment: She extracted blood from the little lemur and sent it for analyses. (Experiment and collect data)
- E. She shared her results (a new species) with other scientists. (Communicate the results)

**Animal Journal (Vocabulary)**

<b>lemur</b>	
<b>my definition</b>	<b>my drawing</b>

<b>anole lizard</b>	
<b>my definition</b>	<b>my drawing</b>

orangutan	
my definition	my drawing

giraffe	
my definition	my drawing

great white shark
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<b>my definition</b>	<b>my drawing</b>
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### **Female Scientists Who Worked on Animal Conservation:**

Women have been instrumental in working to save endangered species of animals. Have students divide into a few groups and either assign each group a female scientist who worked in animal conservation or have them vote and choose. The students should research their assigned scientist using books in the library or by looking them up on the internet. They can also research and report on the animal that scientist chose to protect (see parentheses). They may take notes, illustrate a poster and share with the rest of their class. As to each scientist, possible information to look for:

- Childhood/family/where they are from
- What made that scientist choose to protect *that* particular animal?
- Major achievements

Jane Goodall (chimpanzees)

Dian Fossey (gorillas)

Birutė Galdikas (orangutans)

Neiva Guedes (hyacinth macaws)

Andrea Angel (albatrosses)

Eugenie Clark (sharks)

Sandeun “Lek” Chailert (elephants)

Laurie Marker (cheetahs)

Krithi Karanth (tigers)

Leela Hazzah (lions)