

**READ THE PASSAGE** Find out how a zoo doctor does her job.

### Working with Wild Things

How do you give a fish a pill? How do you help a hurt giraffe? Dr. Cheryl Cullion (KUHL-lee-un) knows. She is a zoo doctor. She cares for nearly 1,000 animals. She has patients that growl, swing, and stomp. And all of her patients are wild.

Giving zoo animals their medicine can be difficult. Some animals just eat their pills. Others need to be tricked. Dr. Cullion knows what works. She hides pills in the fish that penguins eat. She adds a cherry flavor to the medicine for monkeys. To help fish, she quickly stuffs a pill into their gills.

Being a zoo doctor is a challenging job. Dr. Cullion once had to check the health of monkeys that were new to the zoo. She needed to watch them to make sure that they ate. But there was a problem. All of the monkeys looked alike! So the doctor made some safe colors from vegetables. She dyed each monkey's fur a different color. Then she could tell them apart. They were punky monkeys!

**WILL PRACTICE** Read the item. Write your response.

1. What is the setting for this text? How do you know?

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2. Why did the zoo doctor dye the monkeys' fur?

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3. Does Dr. Cullion like wild animals? Explain your reasoning.

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**STRATEGY PRACTICE** Tell a partner what you know about animal doctors.