**Learning Objective**

We are learning to précis large passages

**Challenge 1**

**Underline the key words in each sentence and then rewrite them in as few words as possible.**

Baboons are some of the world’s largest monkeys as they can weigh up to 40kg and can be up to 1 metre in length, not including their tails.

The hamadryas baboon is an Old World Monkey found in northeast Africa, predominantly in Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti and parts of Sudan and Somalia.

The hamadryas baboon is a diurnal primate, which means they are active in the daytime and then retire to the cliffs to rest at night.

**Challenge 2**

**Rewrite this passage in your own words to create a précis.**

Hamadryas baboons are omnivores but their diet consists mainly of plants since they often live in dry regions. They are able to survive on a poor diet for long stretches of time. Populations of baboons in Africa rely heavily on the roots, seeds, leaves, flowers and pods of the acacia tree; populations in Arabia are known to eat cactus fruit and palm nuts. They have also been known to hunt small mammals.

**Challenge 3**

**Write a précis of this longer passage. You might find it helpful to use bullet points to list the key points and then rewrite the passage in your own words using your list.**

**There are 188 words in this passage. Can you write a precis using approximately 65 words?**

Hamadryas baboons live in groups of up to four hundred strong with no single leader. Theirs is a very complex society made up of dozens of small harems, each governed by a male. Every morning they leave the safety of the cliffs to find food. Top-ranking males lead the way and can be very severe with their females if there is the slightest misdemeanour. Despite their individual strength, hamadryas baboons prefer to travel in a troop as it’s safer.  
The males baboons are about twice the size of the females: males can weigh from 20-30kg, while females weigh 10-15kg. The hamadryas baboon typically lives for around 20 years in the wild, but can live up to 30 in captivity. The oldest hamadryas baboon on record lived to be 37.5 years old, in captivity.  
Did you know that the hamadryas baboon is often called the sacred baboon because it was considered sacred by Thoth, the ancient Egyptian god who balanced good and evil and also served as the scribe of the gods. Thoth himself would sometimes take on the form of a hamadryas baboon. Some hamadryas baboons were even mummified.