

## Preparing to Go

### Monkey Business

There is a typhoon in a certain area. As the wind is blowing the rain is driving down, a monkey sits secluded in a dry place. He notices a fish in the stream ahead of him. The fish moves against the current, then slides backwards repeatedly.

The monkey ponders this, believing that the fish is struggling and perhaps in danger. He thinks of how he could possibly help the fish. He sees a tree bowing over the stream. He climbs out on a limb and risks his life to save the fish. He pulls the fish out and places him in a dry, secure place. He says, "Now, fish, you'll be fine." The fish flops around a bit and then he settles into a quiet and peaceful rest.

The monkey swells up with joy because he saw a creature that needed help and he was able to help him successfully. What a wonderful feeling!

- Describe what you observed about the monkey in the story.
- Positive Observations:
  - The monkey had great intentions
  - The monkey was compassionate
  - The monkey decided to be involved
  - The monkey was courageous
- Negative Observations
  - The monkey made questionable assumptions
  - The monkey assumed that the fish was struggling
  - The monkey drew inaccurate conclusions
  - Where did the monkey get the assumptions?
  - Who does the monkey represent?



Moral of the story:

You and I will be like the monkey if we enter another culture without good preparation. It is fine to have good intentions, courage, and compassion. However, they are insufficient without good information and understanding of some things about the culture.