

3rd December - Francis Xavier-Japanese Macaque



Francis Xavier, or Francisco Javier, was one of the two founders of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). Long before aeroplanes, trains or cars were invented, he travelled all over Asia telling people about Jesus. He even got as far as Japan and there is now a park dedicated to him there in the town of Kagoshima.

Japanese Macaques are highly intelligent and have been discovered that potatoes taste better with salt. When given potatoes by humans, the monkeys would clean the dirt off in the sea before eating them. But they soon decided that they loved the salty taste, and started rinsing their potatoes in the sea, even when they weren't dirty or a fresh-water stream was nearer. They have also discovered how nice a hot bath is in cold weather, and love getting in hot springs during winter.