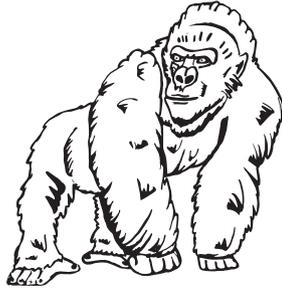


Gorillas

Name: _____

Gorilla Facts

- Gorillas are the largest living primates.
- Their bodies are covered by thick dark hair, except on the face, chest, underarms, palms of the hands and soles of the feet.
- Gorillas are very intelligent. Some gorillas in captivity in zoos have been taught to use simple sign language.
- Gorillas live in social family groups, with an adult male leader, the silverback.
- They are called a silverback because of the silvery fur growing on their back.
- Gorillas eat bamboo, leafy plants, fruits, bark and sometimes small insects and grubs.



Do you know any more interesting facts about gorillas?

Communicating Without Speaking

Gorillas communicate with each other by using gestures, body postures, facial expressions, vocal sounds, and chest slaps.

Write five simple sentences such as:

I am hungry.

I wish it would stop raining.

Using only gestures, body postures, facial expressions and vocal sounds, communicate the meaning of each sentence to a partner.

Extension Research

On a map of Africa, mark where Western lowland gorillas, Eastern lowland gorillas and Mountain gorillas are located.

Which gorillas are the rarest?

How many gorillas are left in the wild?

Writing an Email

Gorillas are endangered. Their habitat is being destroyed when people cut down trees for farming and for fuel. Gorillas are also killed by poachers. Sometimes they get caught in poacher's snares meant for other animals.

Think of ways you could raise public awareness of the plight of gorillas in the wild.

Write an email to a friend explaining your ideas.

How can we help save the gorilla habitat?

Number Crunchers

An adult male gorilla may eat 20 kg of vegetation per day.

An adult female gorilla may eat 15 kg of vegetation per day.

A pregnant female gorilla may eat 25 kg of vegetation per day.

How much more does a male gorilla eat in a day compared to a female gorilla?

How much more does a pregnant gorilla eat in a day compared to when they are not pregnant?

How much does a male gorilla eat in 5 days?

How much does a female gorilla eat in 5 days?

How much does a pregnant gorilla eat in 5 days?

