

I can identify the basic needs of animals.

Lesson 1: Wild About....



Photo: Courtesy of the OKC Zoo; Andrea J.



This is a fun book to learn about vulnerable/endangered animals around the world. After reading the book, share with the students that each of these animals have one thing in common - they are all endangered.

Lesson 1:

Introduction to Conservation

Learning Goals: I can identify the basic needs of animals.
I can explain the primary reasons that animals become
threatened or endangered.



Think about this question:

 **What do animals need to survive?** 



Have students think about “what animals may need to survive”. Do a two minute think-pair-share. Discuss NEEDS versus making life easier (ex: yes shoes make things easier but animals do not NEED them to survive). Record student answers, discuss, make a list, etc.

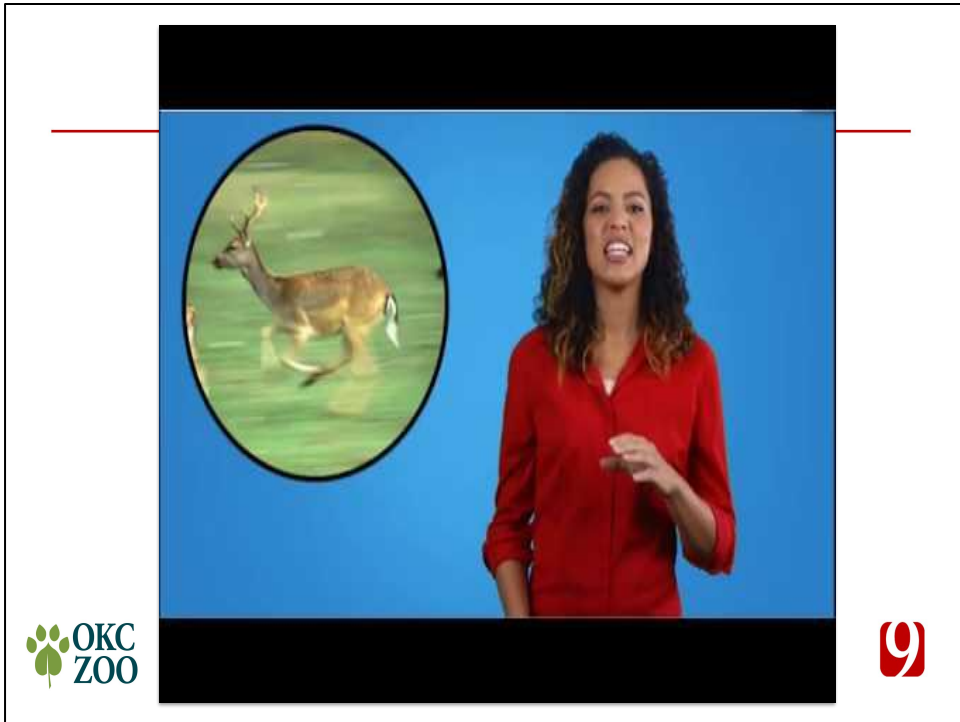
Do animals need these things to survive?

Yes!

No!



Have students do a pre-sort together. Explain there are 5 things (most) animals need to survive. You can print the photos off, laminate them, and use them on a T-Chart on the board, you can pre-sort them together on the slide, or individually presort. Explain to the students they will come back and make any corrections.



This video discusses what an animal needs to survive. This video ends at 2:22 after it is shared what animals need to survive.
This will allow for discussion on side #6.

Animals need certain things in their habitat to survive.

1. Food



2. Water



3. Shelter



4. They need space for:



- moving around
- finding food
- having babies
- shelter
- Play

5. Air to breath!



Animal Needs: Teacher reviews these five vital things. When we say “animals need space” Do we mean like “outer space”? No! We mean animals need ROOM for different things. Some animals also need air/oxygen to breath.

Do animals need these things to survive?

Yes!



No!



9

Time to check your work! Discuss the correct items under “Yes”. Have students fix their pre-sort. Students can also do the sort on their own as a time to reflect. If students work independently, give them a time limit to cut and glue.



We discussed what animals NEED to survive in slide #5. But let's think about this: What happens if animals don't get one of these things? Discuss this together. You can do a 2 minute quick right or think pair share for students to think what happens if they do not get these things.

Think about this...

We know what animals need.

What happens if they don't get what they need?



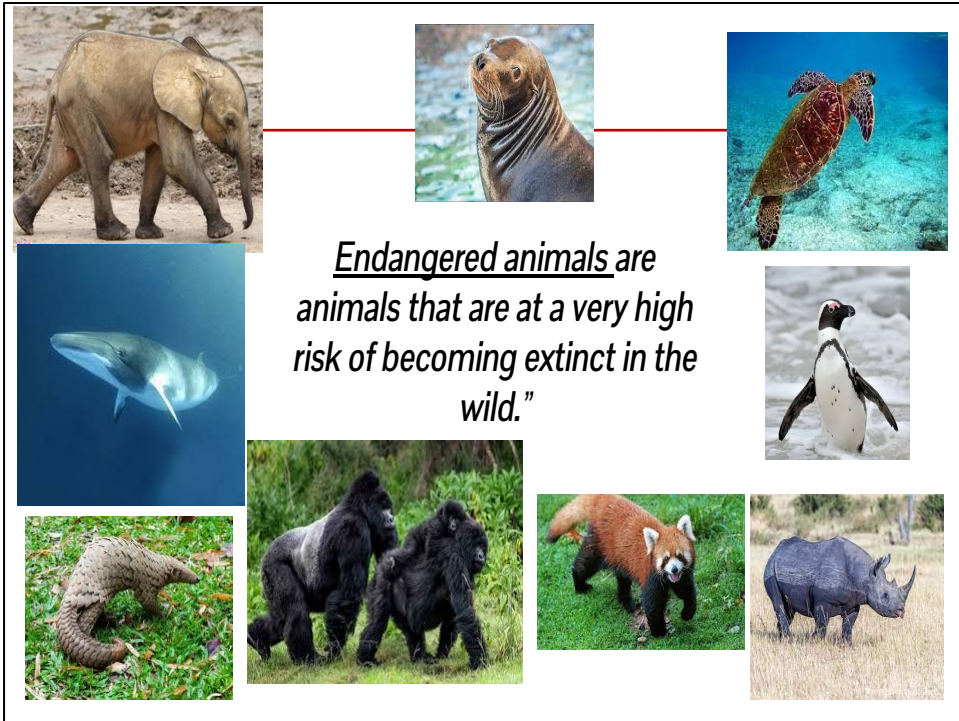
Wild About....

Endangered Animals



I can explain the primary reasons that animals become threatened or endangered.





Endangered animals are animals that are at a very high risk of becoming extinct in the wild.

Discuss what “endangered” means. All of the photos on this slide are of endangered animals. You can find more animals at https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/directory?direction=desc&sort=extinction_status

What causes an animal to become endangered?

1. Humans clearing the animal habitats to build cities.
"Deforestation"



2. Animals being over hunted

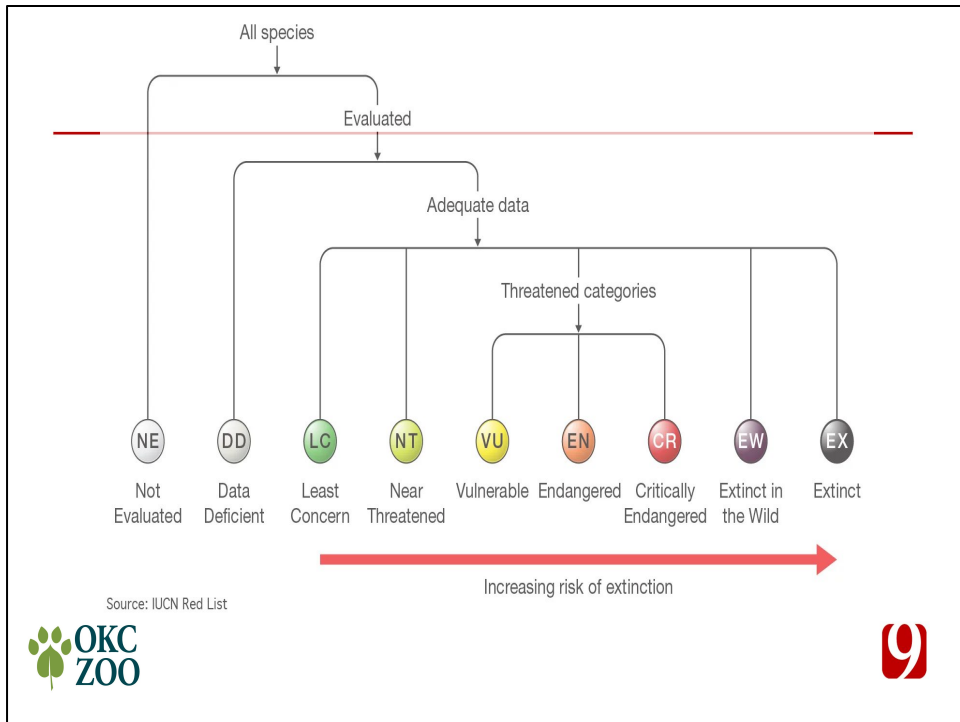
3. Pollution



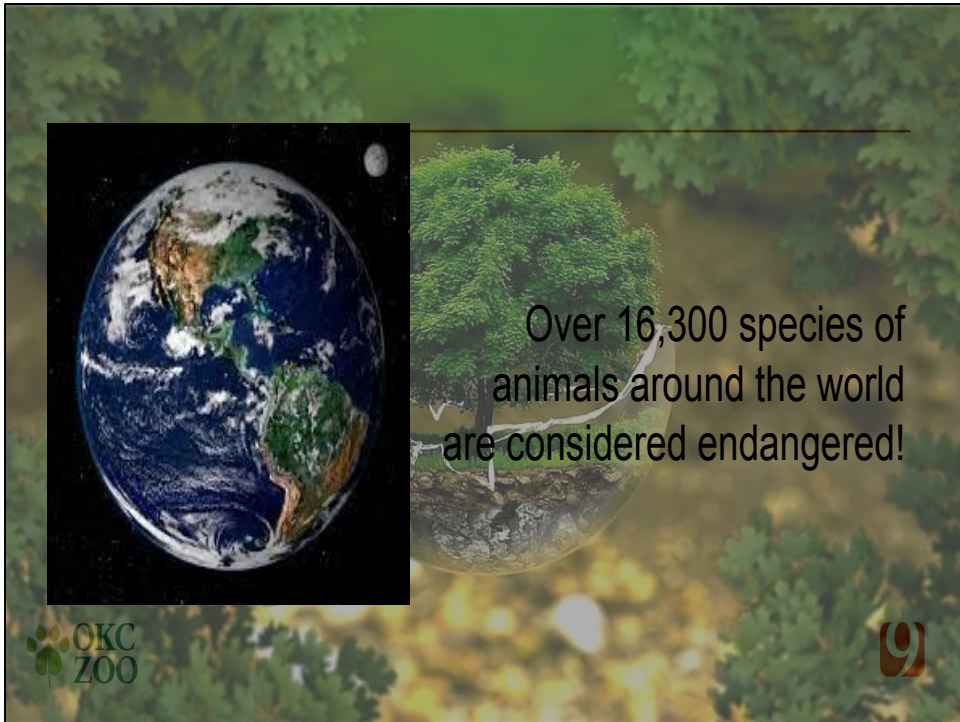
4. Disease
5. Not enough food



There are many reasons that can cause a species to be classified as "endangered". Here is a list of five. Pictured: litter in natural habitats and examples of deforestation. Disease that animals cannot fight off. Not enough food as a result of a drought, or something wrong with the food chain. Discuss with the class.



This chart came from the [IUCN website](https://www.iucn.org/). Discuss with the students what “Least Concern” might mean, and how the chart flows to the right. What does “Extinct in the Wild” mean? If they are extinct in the wild but there are still some that survive, where might they be? What animals or species do you know of that is fully extinct? (Dinosaurs, Doo Doo birds, Sabertooth tigers, Megalodon sharks)



Over 16,300 species of animals around the world are considered endangered!



[Click Here for more information about endangered animals](#)



There are over 1,300 endangered or threatened species in the United States today.



For more information about endangered animals in the US, visit the United States Environmental Protection Agency, [click here!](#)

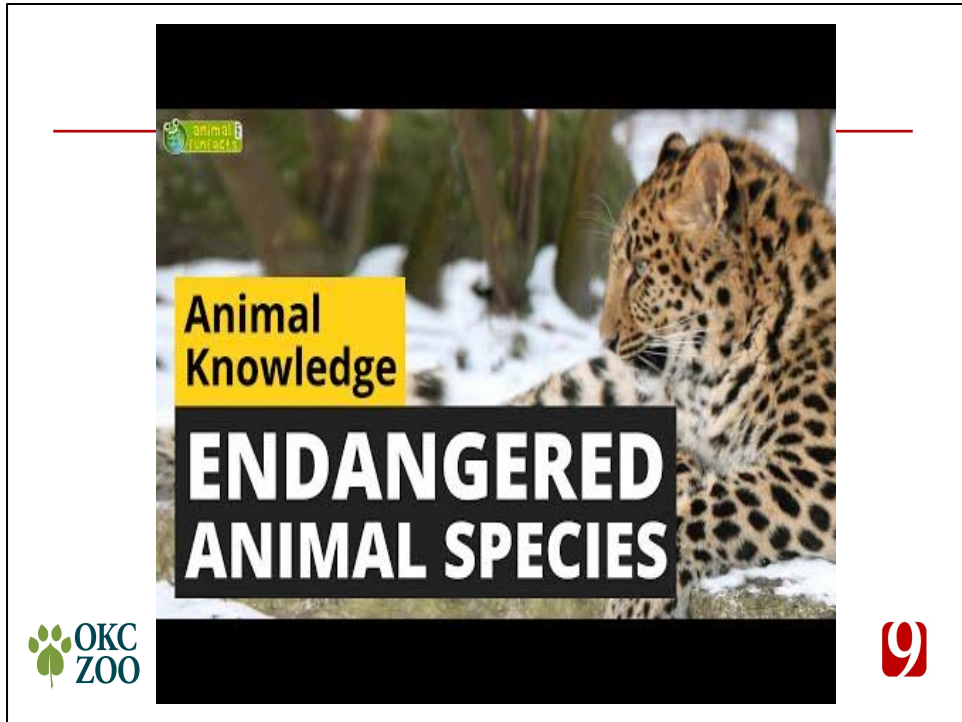


Do we have any endangered animals in Oklahoma?

According to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, there are 10 animals in Oklahoma that are endangered.



For more information about federally or state classified endangered animals in Oklahoma, visit the Oklahoma wildlife conservation website by [clicking here!](#)



During this video, place endangered animals coloring sheets upside down at each child's table spot. When the video is over, discuss endangered animals with the students.

Can you identify these endangered animals?



Explain to the students that there is a coloring page of an endangered animal at their seat. It is flipped upside down so they cannot see the animal they got. Instruct students to flip the paper over and see. Together identify the animals: Green Sea Turtle, Rhinoceros, Monarch Butterfly, Red Panda, Goliath Frog, Mountain Gorilla, Sumatran Tiger, Mandrill, Blue Throated Macaw and Amur Leopard.. Students may need help with animal names. There are a few “fast facts” about their animal on their coloring page. Explain that the next few lessons will focus on one endangered species in particular, the conservation efforts to reduce the risk level, and how the OKC Zoo is directly helping. For more endangered animals color sheets, visit <https://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/endangered-animals>

I can identify Africa on a map and compare/contrast Africa and North America.

Lesson 2: Wild About....



Let's explore somewhere new today!



This is a map of the world! Do you know which continent we live on? That's right! We live on North America! Today, we are going to learn about a different continent. Any guesses where we are going to visit? We are going to travel across the Atlantic Ocean, and visit the continent of AFRICA! You can use [Google Earth](#) to show how far Africa is from North America, and discover some different places in Africa.

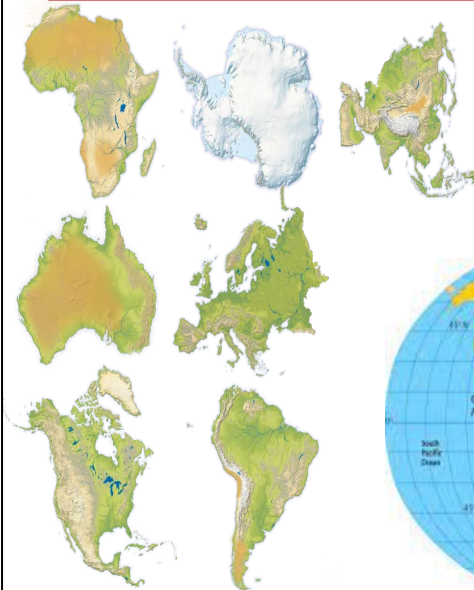
Think about this question:

 What do you know about Africa? 



Have students share what they think they already know about Africa. You can use [Google Earth](#) to show how far Africa is from North America, and discover some different places in Africa.

Africa is a Continent



Continent: a BIG area of land separated by water or other natural features.

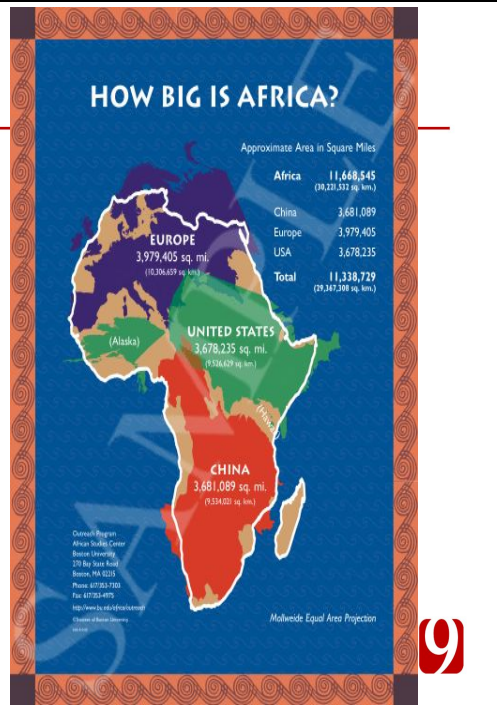
Can you list all seven continents in the world?



Africa is one of the seven continents. There are lots of great facts about continents for kids at <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/continents/>!

Africa is REALLY big

- Africa is the second-largest continent.
- Africa is 11,608,000 square miles! It's so big, the continental United States, Alaska, China and Europe can fit inside the entire continent!
- There are 54 countries on the continent of Africa.
- As of 2014, Africa had a population of 1,072,254,100 people.

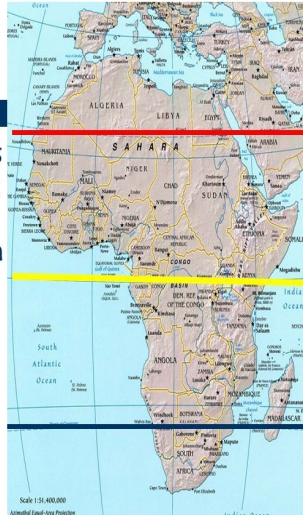


Klepeis, Alicia. *Continents: Africa*. ABDO Publishing, 2014. Click “Africa is REALLY big” to visit <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/continents/africa/> for interactive information about Africa. There are 54 countries in Africa (<https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/africa.htm>)

Africa is a TROPICAL continent

Climate & Vegetation

- Majority of Africa is between the Tropic of **Cancer** and the Tropic of Capricorn
- The **equator** runs through the middle of the continent
- Africa = warm temperatures



This is the part of the Earth that is closest to the sun.

It can be very warm during the day and very cold at night.



photo credit: slideplayer.com/slide/7858768/. Wanner, Zukiswa. *The Seven Continents: Africa*. Scholastic Inc, 2019. **Most of Africa lies between the tropics which means it is located on the part of earth that is closest to the sun.**



Temperatures are highest in the Sahara Desert and lowest across the south and atop mountains.



The Sahara Desert is the biggest desert in the world. To learn more about the Sahara Desert, visit [click here](#). Mountain pictured: [The Virunga Mountains, northwestern Rwanda](#). Virunga Mountains are important to point out because Virunga National Park is Africa's most biodiverse protected area, home to over one thousand species of mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibians as well as [1/3 of the world's endangered mountain gorillas](#). Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest free-standing mountain, and snow capped. For more information about Mount Kilimanjaro, [click here](#).

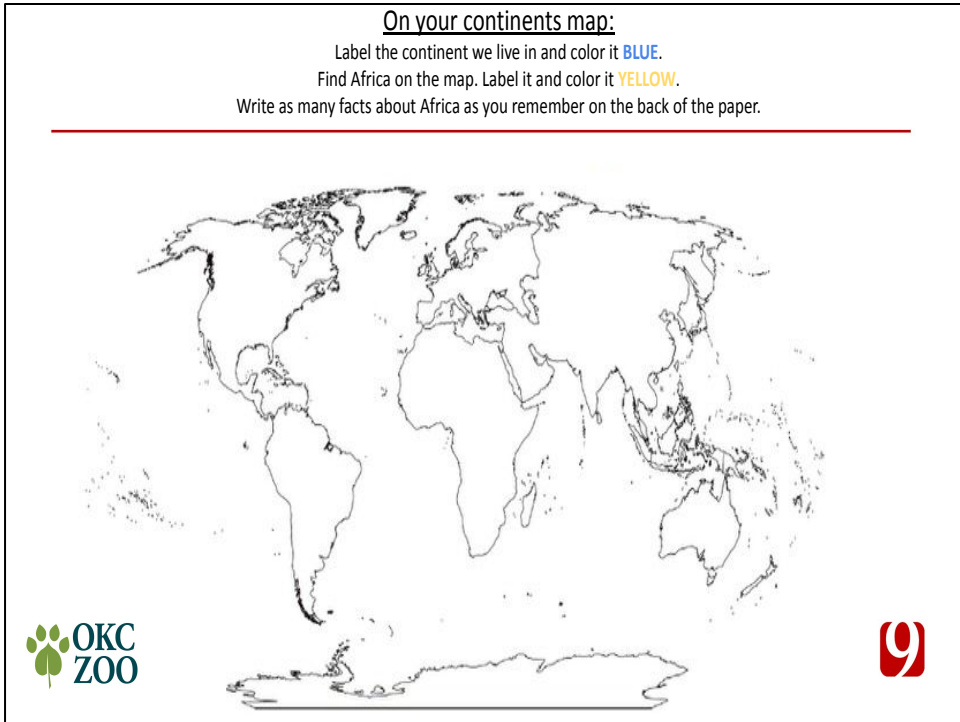


On your continents map:

Label the continent we live in and color it **BLUE**.

Find Africa on the map. Label it and color it **YELLOW**.

Write as many facts about Africa as you remember on the back of the paper.



Pass out the student copy. Work with students to help them identify North America on the map by coloring the continent blue and labelling it. Have them identify and color Africa yellow and labelling it. **Write facts about Africa on the back.**

I can recognize some endangered animals from Africa.

Wild About....



Endangered Animals in Africa



Part 2



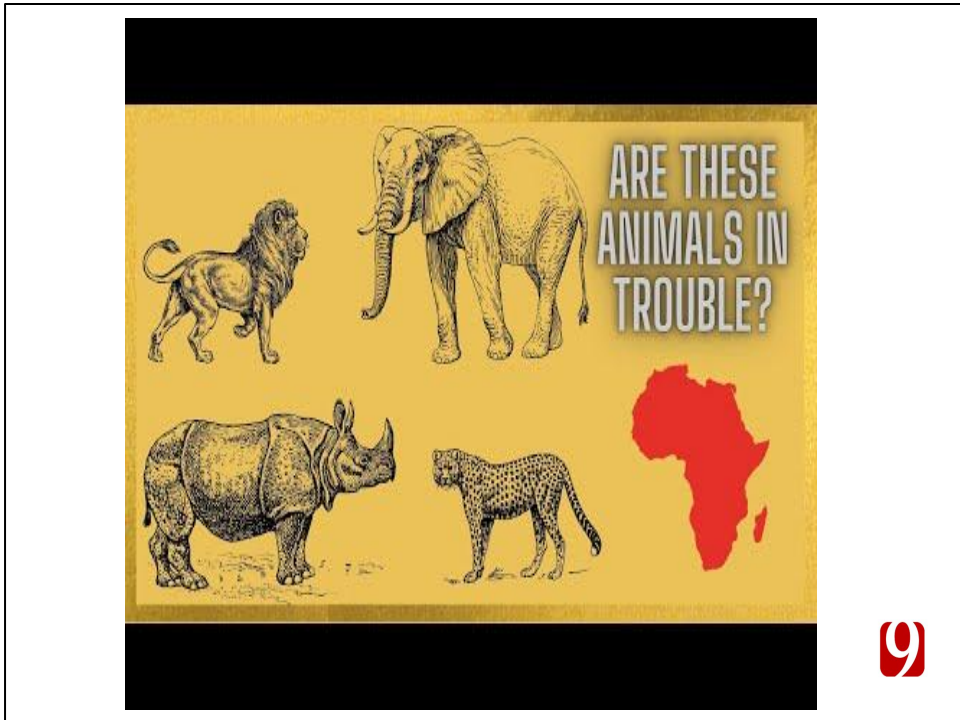
Discuss the animals on this slide. Students will learn more about endangered animals in Africa.

Many of Africa's plant and animal species are in danger of dying out.



9

To get a more extensive list of Africa's endangered animals, visit <https://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/all>. Click [here](#) for more information. ****Each photo is hyperlinked to learn more about each animal.** Wanner, Zukiswa. *The Seven Continents: Africa*. Scholastic Inc, 2019. [Elephant Fact](#): -An elephant's trunk contains about 100,000 different muscles and is the world's largest land animal.



This video explores different animals throughout the continent of Africa that are endangered or vulnerable. **Wrap Up Activity:** Endangered/Vulnerable Animal Profile

I can classify different species of gorillas and identify potential threats to their population.

Lesson 3: Wild About....



Photo Credit: Oklahoma City Zoo (George the Gorilla)

Click the
gorilla to
explore more
photos!



Think about this question:

 **What do you know about Gorillas?** 



Have students share what they think they already know about Gorillas. Make a list on the board, or share aloud to the class. Keep these thoughts to refer to at the end of Part 1. The gorilla picture is linked for more gorilla photos.



True or False?
Gorillas live in trees.



Share this thinking question with the class: “Gorillas live in trees”. Give them some time to share their thoughts.

Photo Credit: Oklahoma City Zoo, Andrea J., Dr. Jennifer D.

False!

Unlike most other primates, gorillas do not live in trees. They will climb trees to pick fruit but they spend most of their time on the ground.

OKC
ZOO

9

Although they like to climb trees and swing from the branches, they do not live in trees. As a matter of fact, they use trees, bushes and plants to create their nesting sites. Most gorillas make two nests daily, one for daytime rest and one for nighttime sleep.

Book Sources: McDowell, Pamela. *Amazing Primates: Gorillas*. AV2 by Weigl, 2016.

Miller-Schroeder, Patricia. *Animals On The Brink: Gorillas*. AV2 by Weigl, 2013.

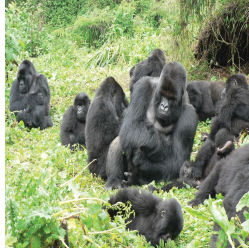
Photo Credit: <https://gorillafund.org/dian-fossey/social-groups/>

Gorilla Habitat

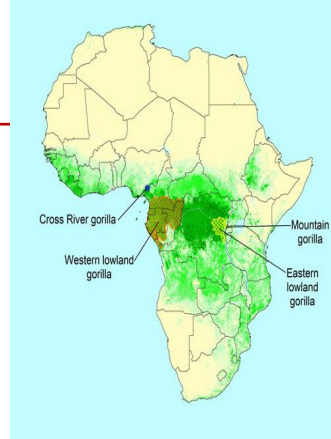


Every evening mountain gorillas construct a new nest, even if it is only a few feet from the nest they used the night before.

They live in groups called "troops"



[Watch Impamo the Mountain Gorilla Build a Nest](#)



Gorillas live in east-central Africa



- Western lowland gorillas prefer the **tall, lush tropical forest** of Africa.
- As their name says, mountain gorillas live in **forests high in the mountains**.



Photo Credit: gorillasp.org/About-Gorillas/Gorilla-Species-Distribution, *Map by Richard Bergl, Ph.D. (2008)*.

<https://www.livescience.com/27337-gorilla-facts.html>

Video credit: [youtube.com/@savethegorillas](https://www.youtube.com/@savethegorillas) - Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund Multimedia, at the time of this video, Impamo is a 3-year-old male mountain gorilla (born in 2012).

Nest photo: <https://www.berggorilla.org/en/gorillas/general/everyday-life/how-do-gorillas-sleep/>

Book Source: McDowell, Pamela. *Amazing Primates: Gorillas*. AV2 by Weigl, 2016.

Depending on Lowland or Mountain gorillas, their habitats can differ. Refer to the Lowland vs. Mountain Gorillas slide for more information.

WORLD GORILLA DAY

Presented by  BOB MOORE

Like us, gorillas are active during the day and need long periods of rest at night. Each night, they build nests from branches and leaves for sleeping.



Find facts like this when you visit the OKC Zoo!

Fun Facts About Gorillas

- Gorillas are the largest type of ape.
- An ape is a mammal in the group of primates, which includes chimpanzees, gibbons, gorillas and orangutans.




- An adult male gorilla is called a silverback. Can you guess why?
- Gorillas do not have tails.
- Gorillas are diurnal- which means they are active during the day.



According to www.dkfindout.com/us/explore/six-great-gorilla-facts/: An adult male gorilla is called a silverback because it has a saddle-shaped patch of silver fur on its back. Photo Left: OKC Zoo, Azina, Dr. Jennifer D

WORLD GORILLA DAY

Presented by  BOB MOORE

**Gorillas' vegetarian diets
include roots, shoots,
leaves, fruit, wild celery,
and tree bark and pulp.**



Fun Facts About Gorillas



- They may look mean, but they are shy and peaceful unless they feel threatened.
- The males defend their families by roaring, beating their chests to scare off threats, charge, knock over or bit at the danger.
- Gorilla spend most of their time on the ground.
- In the middle of the day, they take a nap or play.
- They eat fruit, leaves, plant stems, seeds and termites. Gorillas eat in the mornings and evenings.
- They spend up to 14 hours a day eating!



<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/gorillas-beat-their-chests-communicate-each-other-180977477/>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/us/explore/six-great-gorilla-facts/>

WORLD GORILLA DAY

Presented by  BOB MOORE
SUBARU

When an alpha male is challenged, he may stand upright, throw things, charge, or pound his chest. Despite these powerful displays, gorillas are generally shy and not aggressive unless they are disturbed.



human foot gorilla foot

Gorillas have a thumb and a big toe. Gorillas are able to use their big toe to pick up objects with their feet and hold onto things. They also have fingerprints, just like we do!

They use their fingernails for opening, scraping, cleaning and scratching.

OKC ZOO

9

Source: <https://seaworld.org/animals/all-about/gorilla/characteristics/> use this website for more interesting information about the physical characteristics of gorillas.
<https://animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/gorilla>

Explain what an “opposable thumb” is by having students point their own thumbs in the air.

Grasping Hands: Like us, great apes and many other primates have thumbs that can bend to touch the fingers. Having opposable thumbs allows an animal such as a gorilla to pick up and hold things.



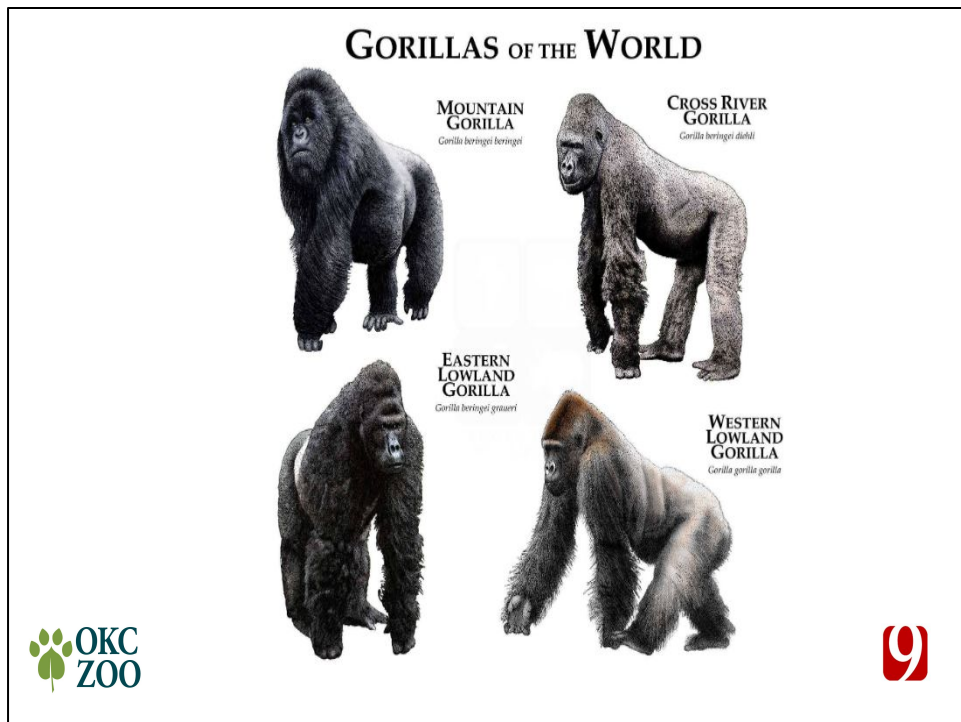
BBC earth KIDS
WILD BITES

 After this video, we will play a Kahoot! to test your knowledge. Make sure you pay close attention!



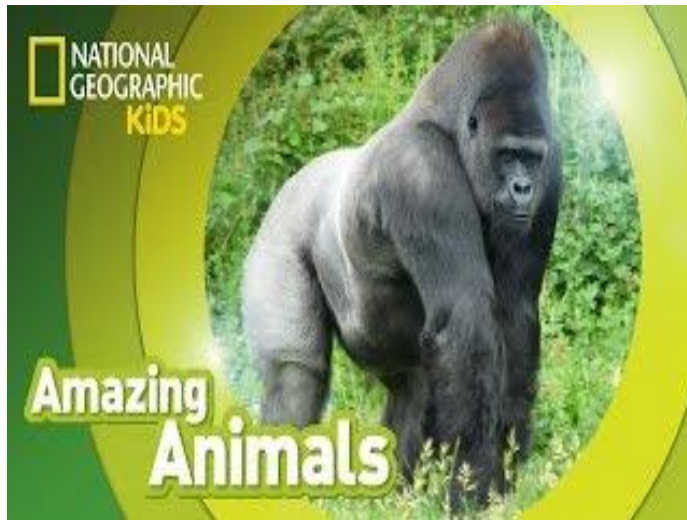
Source: BBC Earth Kids

This video has a custom Kahoot! [Click here](#) to play “Wild About Gorillas” on Kahoot!



<https://www.animalsaroundtheglobe.com/how-many-gorillas-are-left/> Here is a brief photo to show the physical differences between the species of gorillas. For this unit, we are focusing on the Western Lowland Gorilla and the Mountain Gorilla.

Let's Learn More About Gorillas



Video/Website For More Information:

kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/mountain-gorilla

This video briefly discusses the Western Lowland Gorillas found in the thick rain forests on the Atlantic Coast. They can be found in Congo, Guinea, Central African Republic and Cameroon. Western Lowland Gorillas are different than their counterpart, the Mountain Gorillas because of the habitat they prefer.



The Lowland gorillas make their homes in the thick rain forests on the Atlantic Coast. They can be found in Congo, Guinea, Central African Republic and Cameroon. Mountain gorillas live in a much higher altitude in Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic of Congo. They live in rocky slopes of once-active volcanoes, and can climb very high into the mountain ranges at freezing temperatures. In the map, **Lowland Gorillas live in the red section** while **Mountain Gorillas live in the orange section.**

Sources:

<https://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/gorillas>

<https://gorillafund.org/uncategorized/infant-gorillas/>

<https://www.gorilla-tracking.com/blog/comparing-mountain-gorillas-lowland-gorillas/>

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/weird-science/planet-stinky-apes-gorillas-use-b-o-weapon-n152391>

Why Are Gorillas Important?

- Gorillas live in the second-largest tropical rainforest on earth, it plays a critical role in our world.
- The Rainforest acts as the “lungs of the planet”, which cleans the air of Carbon Monoxide, and replaces it with clean oxygen that we need to breathe.
- Gorillas are important to the rainforest because they help spread the seeds of very important plants.



According to WWF.org, there are less than 1,100 gorillas in the wild. For more information, visit the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund <https://gorillafund.org/uncategorized/why-gorillas-matter-save-gorillas-save-the-planet/>

Background photo: Gorilla Habitat, <https://www.gorillahabitat.com/>

WORLD GORILLA DAY

Presented by  BOB MOORE
SUBARU

Western lowland gorillas are critically endangered. Their exact numbers are not known because they inhabit some of the densest and most remote forests in Africa.



Threats To Gorillas



Poaching- gorillas are being illegally hunted for their meat.



Habitat Loss-brought on by climate change, mining, logging, farming, and road construction



<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/article/120719-young-gorillas-juvenile-traps-snares-rwanda-science-fossey>
<https://igcp.org/mountain-gorillas/threats/>



Disease- gorillas can get various human diseases that can result in their death. They are also at risk of injuries.



Snares- gorillas can get caught in traps sometimes set for other animals. As a result, they are badly injured or killed. Some gorillas have learned how to take apart snares.



Photo Credit: Wild gorillas Rwema and Dukore destroy a primitive snare in Rwanda earlier this week.

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND

Injured Gorilla: [bbc.com/news/science-environment-52236493](https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-52236493): Dr Eddy, head veterinarian in DRC, treating an injured gorilla (prior to the coronavirus outbreak)

I can describe the conservation efforts that protect the gorilla population.

Wild About....



Gorilla Conservation **Part 2**




Photo Credit: Oklahoma City Zoo (George the Gorilla)

WORLD GORILLA DAY

Presented by  BOB MOORE
SUBARU

**In human care, gorillas have
displayed significant intelligence
and have even learned simple
human sign language.**



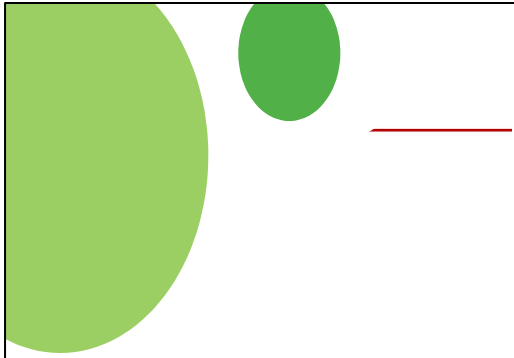


OKC ZOO

Let's meet some Western Lowland Gorillas that live right here in Oklahoma, at the [OKC Zoo](#)!




The OKC Zoo is home to TEN Western Lowland Gorillas! [Click here to read the interview with the primate caregiver, Stephanie.](#) **Photos:** OKC ZOO/Rubi, Finyezi, Bouendje, Togo.



Let's Meet The Bachelor Troop

The bachelor troop is a troop of young silverback gorillas. They are not the head of a troop. They are similar ages, grow up together, and form strong, lifelong friendships. There are three silverback gorillas in the Bachelor Troop at the OKC Zoo.



Source:

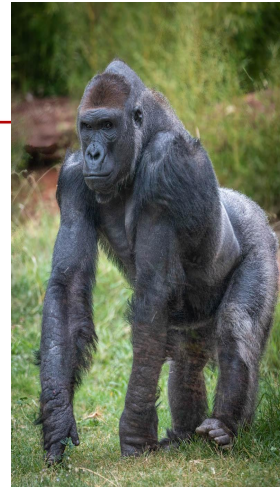
<https://www.okczoo.org/blog/posts/living-the-bachelor-life---understanding-gorilla-social-structure>



George is the oldest of the three males. He has the reddest and largest *sagittal crest*. He has thick silver fur on the upper part of his legs and his left ear has a tear in it. George was born at the OKC Zoo on January 25, 2004 and has a half-sister in the family troop named Emily. His favorite thing to do at the zoo is play with the feeder tires that are filled with grapes or popcorn.



Sagittal Crest: a ridge of bone running along the top of the skull



Bo has less hair on his arms and head. Because of this, he appears the most muscled. His arms have little hair compared to the other 2 males and his head and face hair is very short and not as red. He does not have a big *sagittal crest*. Bo is more dominant (bossy) than George and Bakari. He is VERY vocal and loud and grumbles loudly for his food. Bo was born March 14, 2006 at the San Diego Zoo. Bo's mom is Ndjole who is in the Family Troop. His favorite thing to do at the OKC Zoo is toss around large plastic barrels.





Bakari has a long face compared to the other two and a bigger *sagittal crest* than Bo's. The length of his nose to his nostrils is much longer than either of the other two males. Bakari's nostrils are rounder than the typical heart shape. His hair appears smoother than George's. Bakari is the youngest of all three, he was born August 13, 2006 at the Cincinnati Zoo. He is the biggest of the bachelor troop. His favorite food is green beans and he likes to use blankets to make his sleeping nest.

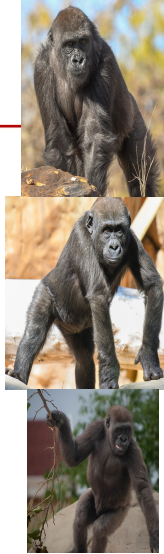




Let's Meet The Family Troop.


The family troop at the OKC Zoo has seven gorillas in the troop. There are two males and five females.






Togo is the silverback leader of the family troop. He was born September 23, 1988 at the Toledo Zoo in Ohio. He has three kids in the family troop: Rubi (top), Finyezi (middle) and Azinza (bottom). His favorite food is fresh browse limbs (made from elm and mulberry). He is a great leader for the family troop and keeps everyone in line.

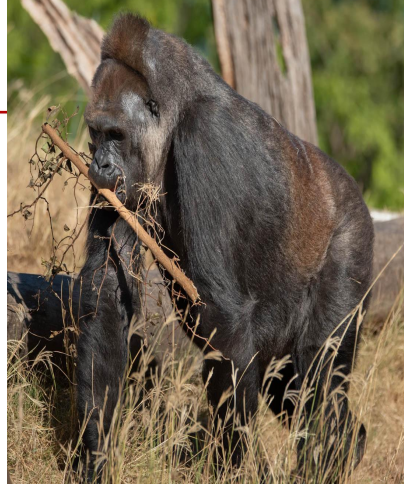
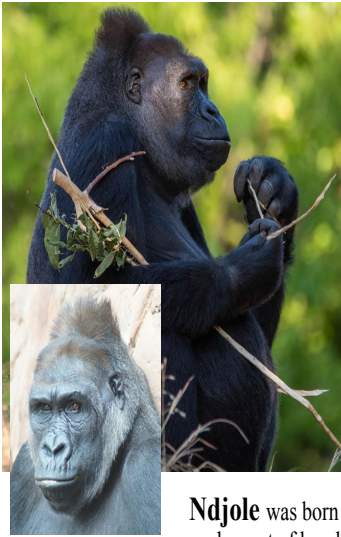




Emily was born April 30, 1985 at the OKC Zoo. Mikella (bottom left) and Rubi (middle) are her daughters. Emily is the best forager in the group and is quick to grab all of her favorite snacks. She plays an important “mom” role in the troop, raised Finyezi (right) as her own, and is the dominant (bossy) female.



Top left photo: Emily with her adopted son, Finyezi.



Ndjole was born March 6, 1996 at the San Diego Zoo in California. She spends most of her day hanging out with Finyezi. She has the darkest color of hair in the group, her hair is all black. She loves to carry branches around on her neck so she always has a to go snack. Her oldest son is Bo (middle bottom), who lives in the Bachelor Troop. Finyezi (top middle) is also her son.





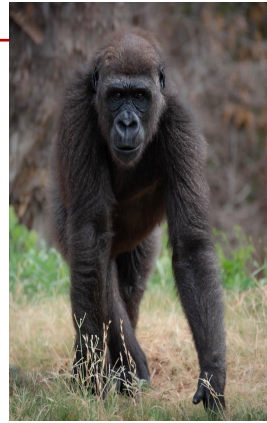
Mikella was born December 14, 2003 at the OKC Zoo. Emily is Mikella's mom, and Mikella has one daughter, Azinza (bottom right). Her caregiver said she is an amazing mom! Mikella is the most vocal in the family troop, and makes lots of exciting food grumbles when she eats. Her favorite activity is to use a stick to get her favorite snack (craisins) out of a feeder board.





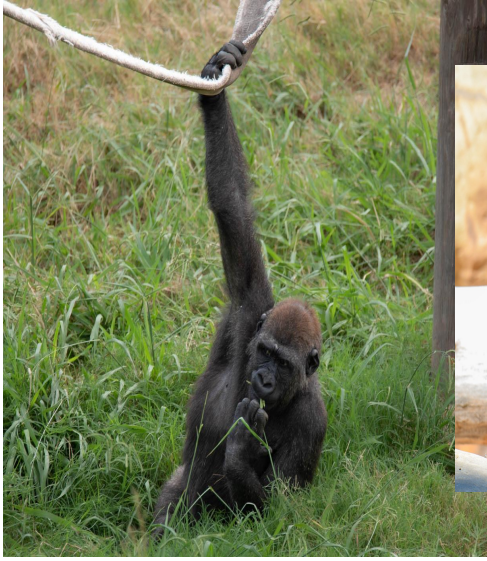
Rubi was born March 24, 2015 at the OKC Zoo. She is the oldest sister of Finyezi and Azinza and she loves to wrestle and play with them. Her favorite thing to do is play with paper bags with food inside.





Azinza was born December 13, 2017 at the OKC Zoo. Her mom is Mikella and her dad is Togo. She loves to play with boxes and get inside of them. She is very smart. Azinza comes from a long line of gorillas born at the OKC Zoo!





Finyezi is the baby of the troop! He was born June 18, 2018 at the OKC Zoo. His favorite thing to play with are party streamers and hang out with his mom, Ndjole.



A Day in the Life of a Gorilla at Smithsonian's National Zoo

Are you curious about how gorillas spend their days at the Zoo? [Click here](#) to see what it's like being a gorilla at the Smithsonian's National Zoo!



Photo Credit:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/news/day-life-gorilla-smithsonians-national-zoo>

Click the link to learn how gorillas spend their day!

Facts About Zoo Gorillas

- There are about 350 gorillas that live in the zoos of the United States and Canada.
- Only western lowland gorillas are in zoos.
- Eastern lowland gorillas and mountain gorillas are so rare, scientists believe they should be left in the wild.
- Gorillas can live to be about thirty-five years old in the wild and about fifty years old in the zoo.
- The Zoo helps people learn to respect gorillas and understand why they need to be protected.



Helping People.
Saving Gorillas.



Click on the Dian Fossey logo to end lesson 2, and begin a teaser for lesson 3.

Source: Gibbons, Gail. *Gorillas*. New York, Holiday House, 2021.

Optional Resources/Activities



Gorilla Live Cams

Interested in watching gorillas live? Choose a link below and start watching!

[Atlanta Zoo Gorilla Live Cam](#)

[San Diego Zoo Gorilla Live Cam](#)

[39 acre gorilla habitat in Africa LIVE CAM](#)



What behaviors did you observe?



Source: <https://cincinnati-zoo.org/animals/western-lowland-gorilla/>

Our new silverback, Mbeli, is now being housed with the Chew Crew full-time. They continue to do well, learning how to act as a cohesive group. With gorillas, animal care professionals know a troop is doing well based on key social behaviors. Spending time in proximity to each other, sharing food, and lots of relaxed lounging are positive signs we see frequently with Mbeli's new gorilla family! This great video is brought to you by Great American Insurance Group.



Facts
about
Gorillas

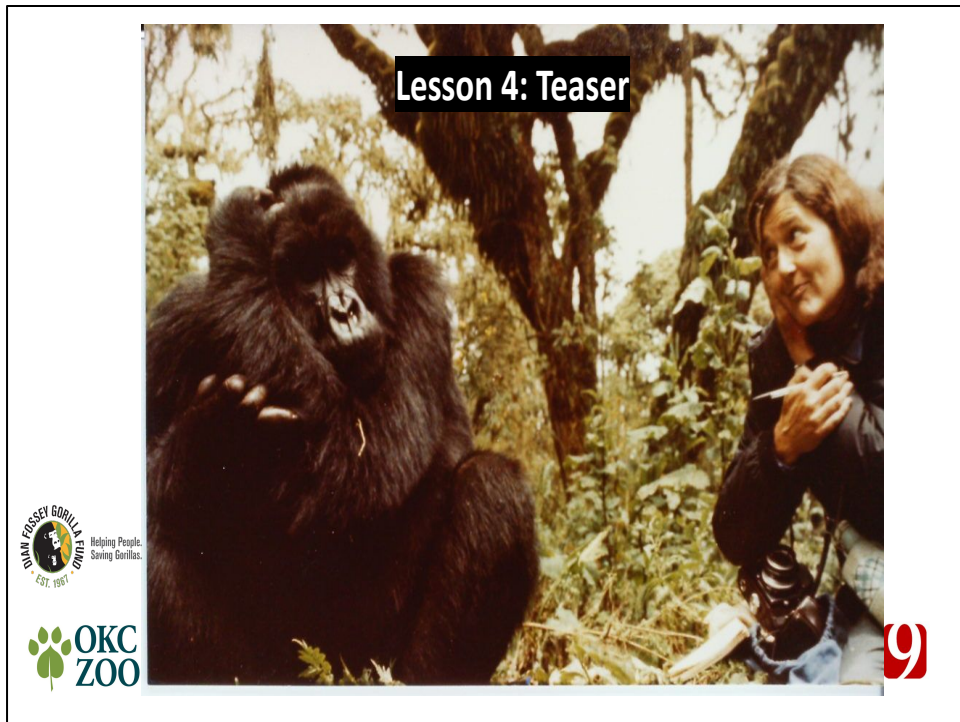


Banana Jungle Online Game

Play as a cute gorilla and help it run through the woods as far as possible collecting bananas along the way.

[Banana Jungle Game](#)





TEASER SLIDE: Before ending lesson 3, share this slide. Prompt the students, “What is happening in this picture? Who do you think this human is? Why do you think she is important?” Explain to the students they will learn all about her in the next lesson.

Photo credit: <https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>

I can explain who Dian Fossey was and her important role in gorilla conservation.

Lesson 4: Wild About...

Dian Fossey



Photo credit: <https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>

Dian Fossey Narrates Her Life With Gorillas



This video will provide an opening into the life work of Dian Fossey.

Gaining the Trust of the Gorillas - a narration from *Into the Mist* by National Geographic.

Who Was Dian Fossey?



- Dian Fossey was born January 16, 1932 in San Francisco, California.
- She discovered her love for animals at a very young age.



Dian Fossey's love for animals began with her first pet goldfish and continued throughout her entire life. During her late teens, she spent a summer working on a ranch in Montana where she decided she wanted to be a veterinarian. She enrolled in the pre-veterinary program at the University of California, and decided to study occupational therapy instead.

Sources & Photo Credit:

<https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>, Mowat, Farley. *Woman in the Mists: The Story of Dian Fossey and the Mountain Gorillas of Africa*. New York, NY: Warner Books, 1987.

Who Was Dian Fossey?

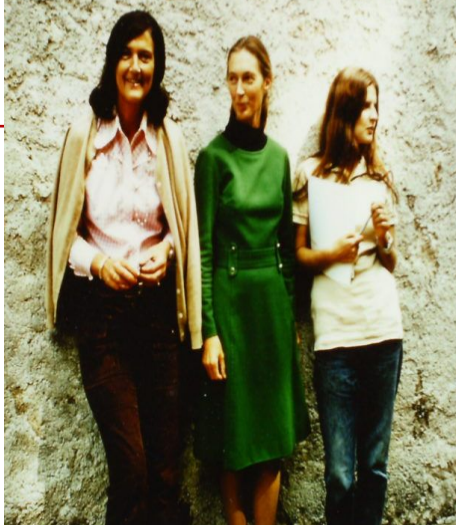
- After completing school, she worked at a hospital as an occupational therapist.
- Dian continued to live on a farm and take care of the livestock.
- She quickly realized she missed working with animals and decided to visit Africa in 1963.
- During her visit, she met Dr. Louis Leakey who inspired her to spend her life studying gorillas.
- This would also be her first time seeing mountain gorillas.



During her first visit to Africa, she met many influential scientists and researchers. She quickly became inspired by their work and the work of Jane Goodall (another notable female scientist who studied chimpanzees in Gombe Stream Research Centre). During her tour of Dr. Leakey's camp, she fell and broke her ankle. She decided her broken ankle would not discourage her from taking the trek to see the mountain gorillas. A few days later, her determination paid off! She encountered mountain gorillas for the first time. She returned home to the United States, more committed than ever to study gorillas.

Source: gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/,
www.britannica.com/biography/Dian-Fossey

Photo: Dr. Louis Leakey, Dian Fossey's mentor and lifelong inspiration.



Notable women scientists (from left): Dian Fossey, Jane Goodall, Birute Galdikas. All three women studied apes in the wild. When Dian returned to Africa to study the gorillas, she stopped in Tanzania to meet Jane and watch her work with the chimpanzees.



For more information about the impact Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas had on ape research, visit:
www.pbs.org/newshour/science/dian-fossey-and-jane-goodall-changed-how-we-saw-primates-these-new-movies-change-how-we-see-them.

Teacher Book Resources:

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Birute Galdikas by Jim Ottaviani

Walking with the Great Apes: Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas by Sy Montgomery

Photo Credit: <https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>,
https://repssi.org/pages/where_we_work/Tanzania.aspx

Africa map: highlights Tanzania, where Dian stopped on her way to Congo to study the mountain gorillas to meet and observe Jane Goodall and her work with the chimpanzees..

Dian Returns To Africa

- In 1966, Dian Fossey returns to Africa, but this time to stay and study the mountain gorillas forever. She met many friends that helped her set up her camp and carry her gear.



- She quickly set out to start tracking the gorilla troops. All of Dian's hard work paid off! After only a 10-minute walk, Dian saw a male gorilla by himself.

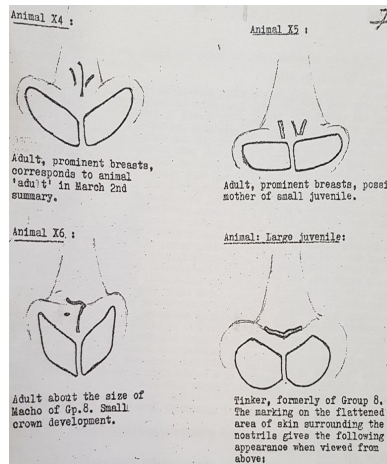


<https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>

“Through her observations, she began to identify the individuals that made up each group. Like George Schaller before her, Dian relied heavily on the gorillas’ individual “noseprints” – the patterns of wrinkles on their noses – for purposes of identification, since they are unique to each gorilla. She sketched the gorillas and their nose prints from a distance and slowly came to recognize individuals within the three distinct groups in her study area. She learned much from their behavior and kept detailed records of their daily encounters.”

Dian Gets To Know The Gorillas

During her time studying the mountain gorillas, she got to know three troops! Dian kept track of each gorilla by learning their “nose prints”. She also sketched the gorillas from a distance and began to recognize each one.



“Through her observations, she began to identify the individuals that made up each group. Like George Schaller before her, Dian relied heavily on the gorillas’ individual “noseprints” – the patterns of wrinkles on their noses – for purposes of identification, since they are unique to each gorilla. She sketched the gorillas and their nose prints from a distance and slowly came to recognize individuals within the three distinct groups in her study area. She learned much from their behavior and kept detailed records of their daily encounters.” - gorillafund.org

Photo Credit:

<https://gorillafund.org/karisoke-research-center/noseprints-used-identify-gorillas/>

A. Mafunzo B. Cantsbee C. Isabukuru

1. 2. 3. 4.

Can you match the noseprint to the correct silverback?

gorillafund.org
THE DIAN FOSSEY
GORILLA FUND
INTERNATIONAL

Click me for the answers!

9

Let's take a break! Can you match the nose print to the correct silverback? Look closely at the details.

- Nose 1: Cantsbee (B)
- Nose 2: Mafunzo (A)
- Nose 3: Isabukuru (C)
- Nose 4: Cantsbee (B)

Courtesy of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund



In September 1967, Dian set up her research camp and named it "Karisoke Research Center". She faced many challenges setting up her camp, the biggest challenge was gaining the trust of the gorillas in the area. Dian was able to form relationships with the gorillas by mimicking their behavior. She was able to gain their trust, and sit near them and observe them for 18 years.



The gorillas in Rwanda had never been regularly around humans, they only knew humans as poachers, so it took them some time to accept Dian.

Photo Credit/Source: <https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fossey/dian-fossey-bio/>, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/article/dian-fosseys-living-legacy-the-mountain-gorillas-of-rwanda> Photo on the right: The foothills of Mount Bisoe, where Fossey established her research camp

Karisoke Research Center Today

Today, Karisoke does daily monitoring and protection of the mountain gorillas. It also provides the community with valuable education programs. Each morning, trackers locate their assigned gorilla group based on where they built their night nests. There are also teams dedicated to anti-poaching and checks for snares.



Decades of daily direct protection have saved mountain gorillas from the brink of extinction and stabilized their tiny population. The research center continues to help study gorillas and uncover many new facts about gorilla society.

Sources:

<https://gorillafund.org/what-we-do/daily-protection/>

Miller-Schroeder, Patricia. *Animals On The Brink: Gorillas*. New York City, AV2 by Weigl, 2013.



Brain Break Time! Get up, and starting running through the jungle!

Meet Dian's Favorite Gorilla



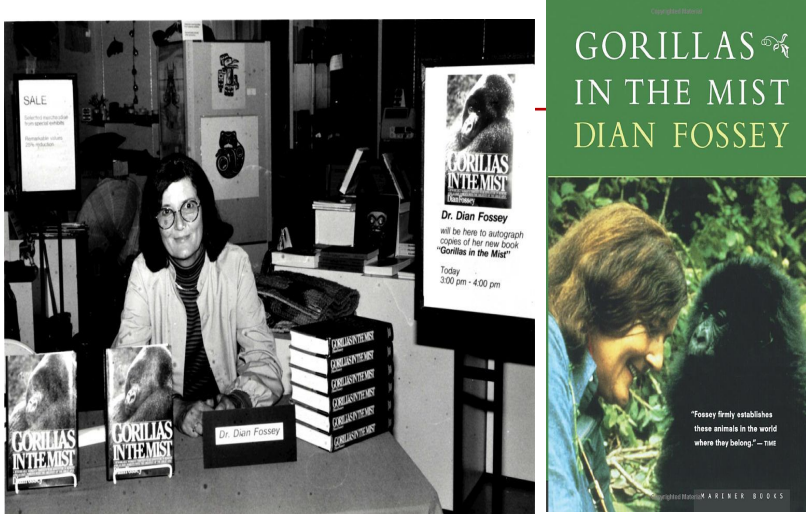
Meet Digit! He was 5 years old when Dian first encountered him in 1967. Digit had a damaged finger on his right hand and no other gorilla playmates his age in his group. Sadly, Digit was killed in 1977 by poachers. He died helping defend his group, which allowed them to escape the poachers. This is when Dian began fearlessly fighting poachers.



Digit's murder led to the establishment of the "Digit Fund" to raise money for her active conservation and anti-poaching initiatives. The Digit Fund would later be renamed to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund. ***We will learn more about the Dian Fossey Gorilla fund in the next lesson.***

Sources:

<https://www.gorillasland.com/dianfossey.php>



Before her death in 1985, Dian Fossey had written several articles and a book, *Gorillas in the Mist* about her work with gorillas.



Sources:

Miller-Schroeder, Patricia. *Animals On The Brink: Gorillas*. New York City, AV2 by Weigl, 2013.

Fossey, Dian. *Gorillas in the Mist*. New York City, First Mariner Books, 1983.

Dian Fossey's Tragic Death

Dian was mysteriously killed in 1985. Her death has never been solved. She was buried next to her beloved gorilla, Digit.



By the time of her death, the Karisoke Research Center was already internationally famous. Because of this, her efforts of research and conservation continue with teams of scientists to protect the gorillas in Virunga National Park.

Sources:

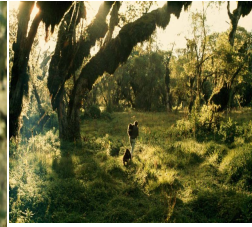
Fossey, Dian. *Gorillas in the Mist*. New York City, First Mariner Books, 1983.

Britannica, The Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Dian Fossey". *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 6 May. 2023, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dian-Fossey>. Accessed 10 May 2023.

Daly, Ruth. *Bringing Back the Mountain Gorilla*. New York City, Crabtree Publishing, 2020.

The Legacy of Dian Fossey

- Because of Dian Fossey, the gorilla population began to increase.
- Poaching of the gorillas decreased. The last confirmed poaching of mountain gorillas was in 1983.
- Dian brought international attention to the problems that gorillas faced.



Bottom: Dian Fossey holds a mountain gorilla that she nursed back to health. *Photo credit: Robert I.M. Campbell. startalkmedia.com*

Middle: Dian Fossey plays with two young mountain gorillas in the wild. *Photo credit: Robert I.M. Campbell.*

Top Right: Dian Fossey takes two gorillas into the forest for observation. *Photo credit: Robert I.M. Campbell.*

Bottom Right: Dian Fossey with mountain gorillas in Rwanda. *Photo Credit: The Leakey Foundation Archive*



[Click here](#) for an interview with the current CEO of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Dr. Tara Stoinski.



Dr. Stoinski has studied gorillas for the past 25 years and was heavily influenced by Fossey's work. Her recorded interview is about halfway into the article.

[click here for more information](#)



I can explain the OKC Zoo's efforts and support of conservation.

Lesson 5: Wild About....



The OKC Zoo and You!



The OKC Zoo is home to over 50 endangered species and as an AZA-accredited zoo, we strive to protect species around the world and educate our guests on the importance of protecting our wild world! The Zoo helps support conservation both locally and globally.

By making small, but important, behavior changes we can make some huge and positive impacts!



Oklahoma City Zoo's Mission Statement

We connect people with our world's vanishing wildlife and wild places to inspire conservation action.

Oklahoma City Zoo's Vision Statement

We envision a world where all people take action to conserve wildlife and wild places.



The OKC Zoo mission is to inspire students with the wonders of wildlife, the current threats to their survival and give you all the tools to help!



THE DIAN FOSSEY GORILLA FUND INTERNATIONAL

- The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International is one of the OKC Zoo's legacy conservation partners.
- A Legacy Partner is a long-term partnership between the Zoo and a conservation organization.
- The money donated is used to support day-to-day operations of the Karisoke Research Center.



Photo Credit: <https://www.facebook.com/okczoo/> Kortney R.,
<https://www.facebook.com/okczoo/> Taylor C./Sept. 19, 2022

World Gorilla Day - September 24



Let's Celebrate World Gorilla Day with the OKC ZOO! Here are some highlights from 2021!



Let's Celebrate World Gorilla Day with the OKC ZOO! Here are some highlights from 2020!



<https://www.okczoo.org/conservation-projects> - this video discusses the 4 pillars of the DFGF's conservation model:

1. Daily Protection- there are trackers that keep track of the gorillas for 365 days a year and work to protect the gorillas
2. scientific research- the DFGF is the longest running research center.
3. Training of future conservation leaders- over 400 students are reached through the DFGF
4. Helping communities- support education, health, jobs and alternatives



Since 2011,
Roundup for
Conservation has
raised **\$738,954!**

What is Roundup for Conservation?

It is a program created to help wildlife and wild places! Zoo guests are encouraged to become everyday conservationists by simply rounding up their purchases to the next dollar amount when visiting the Zoo.

For example, if a guest's total purchase is \$10.73, one of our Zoo team members will ask if they'd like to round up to the nearest dollar. If the answer to the above question is YES, 27 cents will then be donated to the Zoo's overall conservation initiatives. It's really that easy!



RoundUp for Conservation raises funds from visitors who donate their spare change when purchasing admission tickets, or when buying food or beverages at the Zoo.

In 2020, funding from Roundup made it possible for the Zoo to partner with conservation programs in Oklahoma and around the world. This includes:

- Sutton Avian Research Center (Oklahoma)
- The Nature Conservancy (Oklahoma)
- Oklahoma Department of Wildlife (ODWC) Partnership
- Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, Rwanda
- Turtle Survival Alliance
- Foundation for the Conservation of Endangered Species of Guatemala
- International Elephant Foundation
- Giraffe Conservation Foundation
- Bushfire Emergency Wildlife Relief – Contributed funds to Zoos Victoria which is working cooperatively with other accredited Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA) facilities in Australia to rescue and rehabilitate affected wildlife.

Conservation Action Now Grant



The Zoo awards these competitive small grants each December in amounts up to \$2,500 each. The selected projects span the globe and are based on their proposed ability to address the following conservation ideals:

- Conservation Education – building an awareness of a conservation program that can effect change.
- Scientific Research – research projects that have a direct impact on conservation of an imperiled species or habitat in its native location.
- Species Preservation – direct care or work with an imperiled species which results in an improved capability to preserve that species in its native habitat.



Our planet is changing at a perplexing rate. Wild animal populations and healthy habitats are declining rapidly. The Oklahoma City Zoo is actively supporting and helping to expand the conservation of these imperiled species, habitats and their surrounding communities. One small, but wide-ranging, way to fulfill this mission is through the Zoo's annual Conservation Action Now (CAN) small grant program.



[Only On 9: An Exclusive Look at OKC Zoo's Expansion](#)

Click the picture for more information on Expedition Africa from the Oklahoma Zoological Society

Slated to open this June, Expedition Africa is the OKC Zoo's most ambitious and immersive conservation habitat experience in its history.

Expedition Africa will connect Oklahomans and guests from across the country, with African wildlife like never before. This 12-acre habitat located in the heart of the Zoo will feature enhanced animal habitats, diverse environments, memorable wildlife experiences for guests to enjoy and over 60 species native to the African continent such as giraffe, zebra, lemurs, wildebeest, honey badger, hyena, meerkat and more.



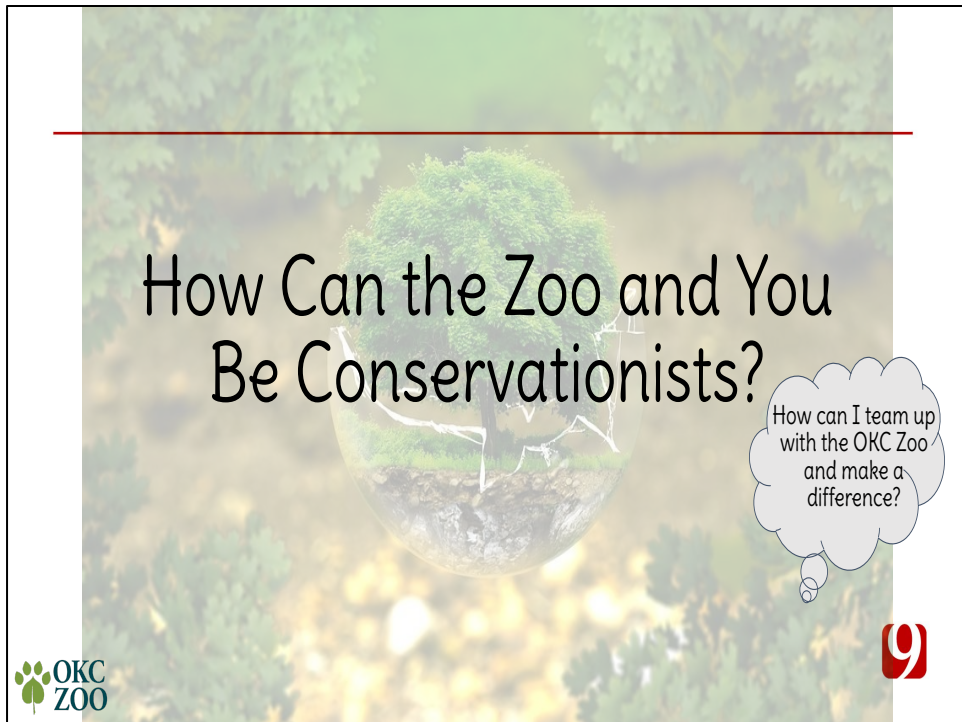
<https://www.okczoo.org/habitats#collection=1616>

Construction is underway for Expedition Africa, the Oklahoma City Zoo and Botanical Garden's latest and largest habitat expansion project to date. Expedition Africa will be a transformation of 12-acres right in the heart of the Zoo and feature diverse environments, guest experiences and unforgettable wildlife. Discover species native to these open vistas including:

- Common Eland
- Flamingos
- Gazelle
- Giraffe
- Honey Badger
- Meerkats
- Mongoose
- Naked Mole Rats
- Okapi
- Ostrich
- Wildebeest
- Zebra

Expedition Africa features a new state-of-the-art giraffe barn that will offer indoor viewing areas of this vulnerable species year-round. Expedition Africa will also include a complete reimagining of the historic pachyderm building, whose iconic mid-century exterior will be preserved while the inside is transformed to feature new habitats, a children's play zone, a private event space plus, a deck overlooking the giraffe

savannah where guests can feed these gentle giants.



The OKC Zoo offers many opportunities to get involved in conservation. We are going to learn how we can help lessen harmful impacts on the environment.

Let's explore some simple, yet affect ways we can help conserve the world's vanishing wildlife and wild places.



What is a conservationist? Let's learn more here.



How recycling our electronics can help save the Gorillas!

Recycle Your Old Small Electronics

- Small electronics like cell phones have a direct effect on wildlife!
- Coltan is a substance used because of its unique properties for storing electrical charge.
- Most of the world's supply of Coltan is found in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Mining for Coltan harms the gorillas' habitats. It also puts miners in close proximity to wildlife.
- Bring old cell phones when you visit the Zoo so they can be disposed of in a safe way!



How Cell Phones Impact Gorillas

Coltan is a mineral used to manufacture cell phones, tablets, and small electronics.

Coltan is mined by hand in the Democratic Republic of Congo which is also the natural habitat of endangered gorillas.

The deforestation and mining associated with coltan production has impacted and displaced gorillas, moving them closer to extinction.

Recycling and extending the life of electronic devices reduces the demand for coltan mining.

Recycle your phones at cell phone stores and approved locations.

Extend the life of your cell phone: commit to using it a few years longer and recycle it when you upgrade. Through simple actions, we can help protect gorillas and their habitat on World Gorilla Day and beyond.

Created by Dallas Zoo

The Dallas Zoo logo, which consists of a stylized red number '9' inside a white square.

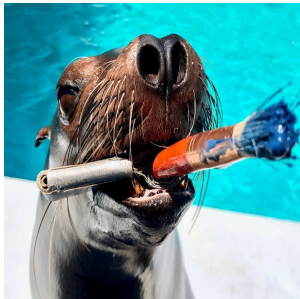
By donating your old cell phones and other small electronics, they are disposed of according to strict environmental standards. The Zoo donates 100% of all recycling proceeds to the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Not only is it safer for the environment, it helps support the DFGF! Collection bins are conveniently located in the Guest Services office in the Zoo's entrance plaza.

www.okczoo.org/conservation-initiatives
[What is Coltan? Learn more here.](#)

Art Gone Wild



Art Gone Wild features original paintings created by different Zoo animals. Some of these amazing animals use paint brushes while others paint with their flippers, trunks, paws, tails and noses.



It's important to note: All of the art created by Zoo animals is made with safe, non-toxic paint. Painting sessions are done voluntarily by the animals, and the process is part of the enrichment programs developed by their caretakers to provide a stimulating environment which addresses the animal's social, psychological and physical needs.

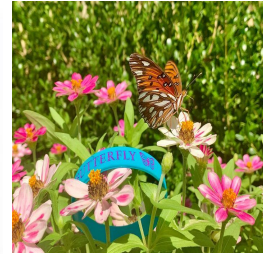
Top Right Photo: [facebook.com/okczoo](https://www.facebook.com/okczoo), February 11, 2022

Bottom Right Photo: Julu the giraffe poses with her artwork! ([facebook.com/okczoo](https://www.facebook.com/okczoo), August 15, 2019)

Bottom Left Photo: Pearl is creating a masterpiece! ([facebook.com/okczoo](https://www.facebook.com/okczoo), August 24, 2020 by Jordan Neal)

Conservation Wristbands

Show your love and support for the OKC Zoo with our one-of-a-kind conservation wristbands. All proceeds benefit the Zoo's conservation programs. From butterfly to bison and giraffe to gorilla, there are 10 different animal designs available.



All proceeds benefit the Zoo's Round up for Conservation program. These wild wristbands are available to purchase at the OKC Zoo's stroller window in the Entry Plaza for \$2 each. Visit the zoo and purchase a few today!

Photos: Courtesy of facebook.com/okczoo and www.okczoo.org/products-for-a-cause

Become a Zoo Member

Becoming a Zoo Member has some fun perks! When you pay for your membership fee, some of the money is used to support the Zoo's Legacy Conservation Partners.

Some Perks Of Being A Zoo Member:

- ★ Free general admission for 12 months
- ★ You have your own entrance
- ★ All sorts of discounts: Wild Encounter experiences, VIP Tours, Safari Lights, Haunt the Zoo and many more!
- ★ More discounts! Summer camps, education classes, and so much more.



When you become a Zoo Member, some of the profits are used to support the Zoo's Legacy Conservation Partners.

www.okczoo.org/membership

Feeling Inspired?

Create a poster to bring awareness to the importance of protecting the gorillas! Use the samples for ideas or let your creativity go wild!



[Click here](#) for pre-made posters for your students to color instead.

Poster Ideas:

www.crayola.com/lesson-plans/erase-it-endangered-animals-lesson-plan/

hotcore.info/babki/endangered-animals-poster.htm

inspirationlaboratories.com/endangered-species-poster-project/endangered-species-posters1/

mrosartroom.blogspot.com/2014/11/endangered-species-poster-contest.html



Helping People.
Saving Gorillas.

The following slides are to inform educators about all of the resources available through the OKC Zoo.

Teacher Resources: Wild About...



The OKC Zoo and You!



The ZooFund for Kids

- Created in 1997, the ZooFund for Kids program is a grant program assisting schools by providing an opportunity for children to attend a Zoo education class and experience wildlife and nature.
- [Click here](#) for important application information.
- To apply, [click here!](#)



More than 430,000 children have been served through the ZooFund for Kids.

Zoo Classes

The OKC Zoo offers many exciting programs both on grounds and off grounds all around the state! We have a special collection of education animal ambassadors that enhance our programs. These animals have been specifically selected as education program ambassadors because of the relevance to our Zoo programs and their comfort with audiences. You can request animals, but there are no guarantees, as animals may not be available or may not relate to the program(s) chosen.

2nd-4th GRADE

Habitat Challenge

Where animals live determine what they look like. Check out the adaptations they use for survival.



Click the gorilla icon to learn more about the Zoo Classes currently offered



The ZOObarus have enabled the OKC Zoo's education team to transport our animal ambassadors and educate children all over the state about wildlife and wild places!



ZOObaru Outreach

Programs designed to help students develop awareness and appreciation for the natural world. Students can see and touch real animals and make connections which foster commitments to environmental protection. Classes are 30 minutes and designed for 32 students or less.



Visit <https://www.okczoo.org/zoobaru-outreach> to learn more!
www.facebook.com/okczoo: July 26, 2019/February 29, 2020

ZOObaru on the move!

Thank you to Bob Moore Subaru for helping the OKC Zoo to inspire all of Oklahoma to conserve wildlife and wild places.

: OKC Zoo Education Team

Read for Adventure



Check out the book, and receive 4 FREE tickets to the OKC Zoo!



Read For Adventure

Brought to you by



Check out "Juniper's Butterfly Garden" from participating libraries, and receive 4 FREE tickets to the OKC Zoo!

Vouchers expire 6/30/23



Click on the book icon for participating libraries

Click on the pencil icon for the official Read for Adventure coloring page!

Educator Resource Bucket

- Loaner educational materials available with various engaging thematic items.
- Free of charge



- 
- A light gray, multi-pointed starburst graphic with a thin black outline, containing a list of items.
- Habitat Boxes
 - Wild Oklahoma Kit
 - Suitcase for survival
 - Sensory Bag
 - Animal Artifacts



To learn more about how to reserve a teacher bucket, visit <https://www.okczoo.org/teacher-resources>