

# Gorilla Unit

Facilitator Guide

Adaptable for Grades Kindergarten-1st



Brought to you by:



OKC  ZOO

Written by:  
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Special Thanks to:  
Oklahoma City Zoo  
News9

## How to use this guide:

This facilitator guide is designed to provide an organized structure and flow for presenting lessons about Gorillas and the continued conservation efforts of The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund (DFGF).

Included in this guide are lesson plans with extension opportunities for you to use as you wish.

While the guide provides detailed guidance and information, please feel free to customize these lessons and experiences to fit the needs of your students.

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## Sources:

The lessons contain information gathered from many different sources, including:

- [Oklahoma City Zoo](#)
- [The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund](#)
- [National Wildlife Federation](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)

# Lesson 1 Introduction: Animal Needs, Endangered Animals and Conservation

## Lesson Summary

**Lesson Duration:** 45 minutes

This lesson is an introduction to the basic needs of all animals and especially endangered animals. Students will explore what “endangered” means and learn about some animals who are in danger of becoming extinct. Videos and activities are available. This lesson will include the discussion of two species in particular that are endangered: gorillas and monarch butterflies in order to segue into Lesson 2 which starts the Gorilla portion of the unit.

## Required Materials

Corresponding slides - Wild About...! Introduction K/1st

**Books:**

- *Who am I?* by Tom Flach (If you cannot get/find a copy of this, the slides contain a video read-aloud.)

**Videos:**

- Animal Needs- <https://youtu.be/Zg34DyIViWU>
- Endangered animals- <https://youtu.be/M1IDQSeJ1cs>
- Brain break videos- <https://youtu.be/XS9LX1CXuJA> and <https://youtu.be/CT86DI442jA>

**Optional Activities:**

- Endangered animals coloring sheets  
<https://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/endangered-animals>
- (Optional) Basic needs T-chart - printable

## Essential Question

What do animals need and what happens if they don't get it?

## Learning Goal

I can identify the basic needs of animals.

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

## Lesson Guide

### Introduction: Basic Needs (Slides)

Open with a discussion question, “What do animals need to survive?” Discuss the difference between wild and domesticated animals and what each group needs to live. Ask for responses of what animals do NOT need to live.

After discussion, display the “Do animals need these things to survive?” slide. Students will look at the pictures and decide if they are necessary for animal survival. The next slide contains the correct answers.

**Optional:** Photos can be printed out and sorted in a T-chart. Display in an area where all students can see the answers and provide input.

### Explanation

<https://youtu.be/Zg34DyIViWU>- explains what animals need to survive.

Animals need certain things in their habitat to survive:

1. Food
2. Water
3. Shelter
4. Air (not all animals need air)
5. Space (to move around, play, have babies, find food)

### Introduction: Endangered Animals (Slides 9-13)

Ask and discuss “What happens if animals don’t get what they need?”

Read-aloud- *Who am I?* by Tom Flach (Video available on slide if a physical copy is not available)

This book can be read in full or choose particular animals to read about.

### Vocabulary

**Endangered**- any type of plant or animal that is in danger of disappearing forever (extinct).

Did you know? There are over 16,300 species of animals considered endangered around the world.

Pictures of endangered animals are on the same slide.

### Explanation

Endangered Animals <https://youtu.be/M1IDQSeJ1cs>- video discusses endangered animals and reasons why they are endangered

## Activity

**Identify Endangered Animals-** coloring sheet activity (color sheets are included at the end of this lesson in the facilitator's guide, or visit

[www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/endangered-animals](http://www.supercoloring.com/coloring-pages/tags/endangered-animals) )

Put endangered animal coloring sheets facing down on their tables/desks. Instruct students to turn them over all at the same time and try to identify the endangered animal on their paper. There are also pictures on slide 13. There are a few "fast facts" about their animal on the coloring page. 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.

Once animals have been identified and discussed, students can color their paper.

## Closing

Explain to students that the next few lessons will focus on one endangered species in particular- the gorilla. They will learn about the animal but also learn ways to help save that animal through conservation and what the Oklahoma City Zoo is doing to directly help.

## **Materials Needed:**

“What Do Animals Need To Survive?” T-Chart

Picture sort page

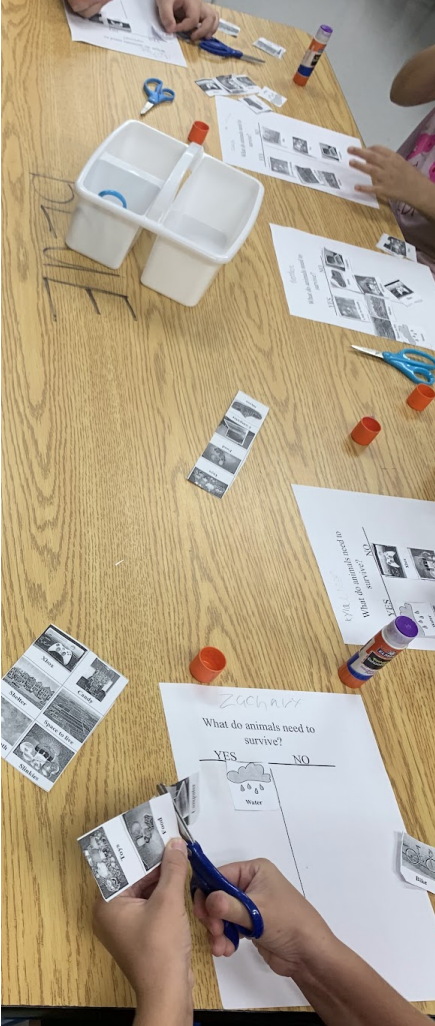
Scissors

Glue

## **Teacher Instructions:**

Print the attached T-Chart and pictures sort. Students will cut and paste the pictures in the correct column of the T-Chart. If the pictured item is something an animal needs to survive, it will be pasted under the “yes” column. If the pictured item is not something an animal needs to survive, it will be pasted under the “no” column.

Students cut and paste their own sort. Activity on the next pages.



# What do animals need to survive?

**YES**

**NO**

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**Water**



**Bike**



**Toys**



**Xbox**



**Candy**



**Food**



**Shelter**



**Space to live**



**Computer**



**a way to breath**



**Slinkies**



**Shoes**

# What do animals need to survive? (Answer page)

**YES**

**NO**



**Space to live**



**Water**



**Shelter**



**a way to breath**



**Food**



**Xbox**



**Bike**



**Slinkies**



**Candy**



**Computer**

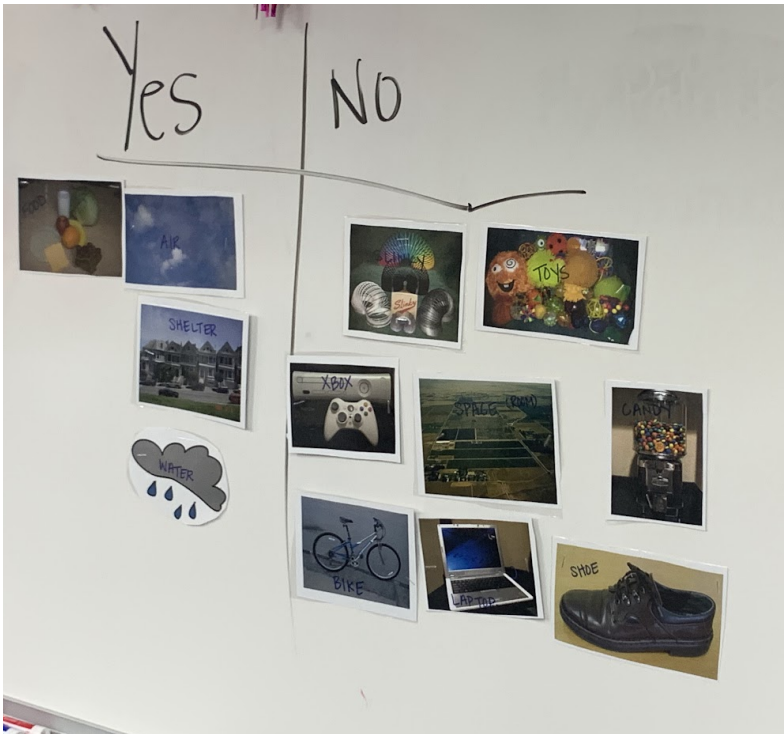


**Toys**



**Shoes**

Pre - Sort Idea: print images and do a class sort on the board before discussing the slides.







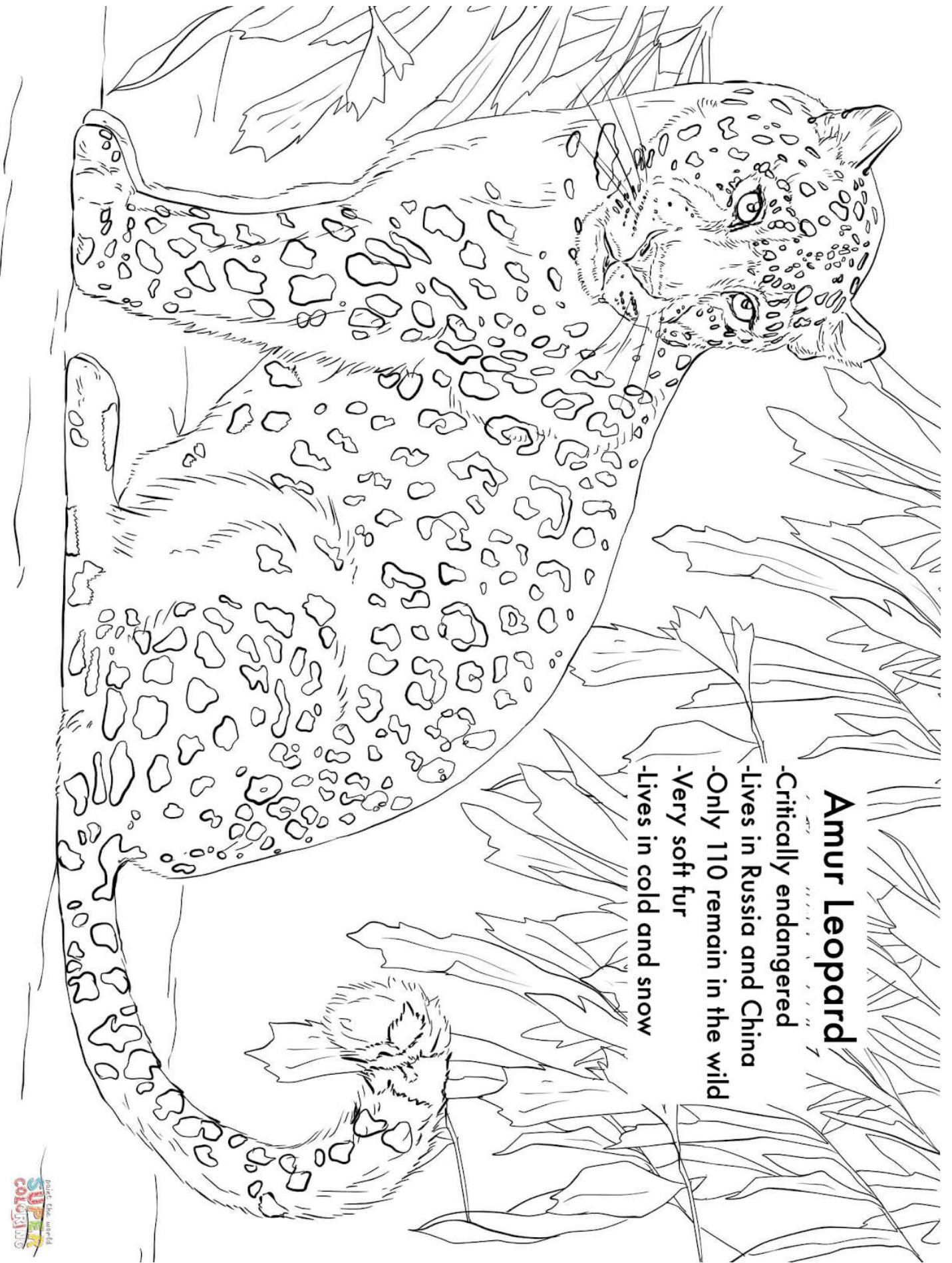








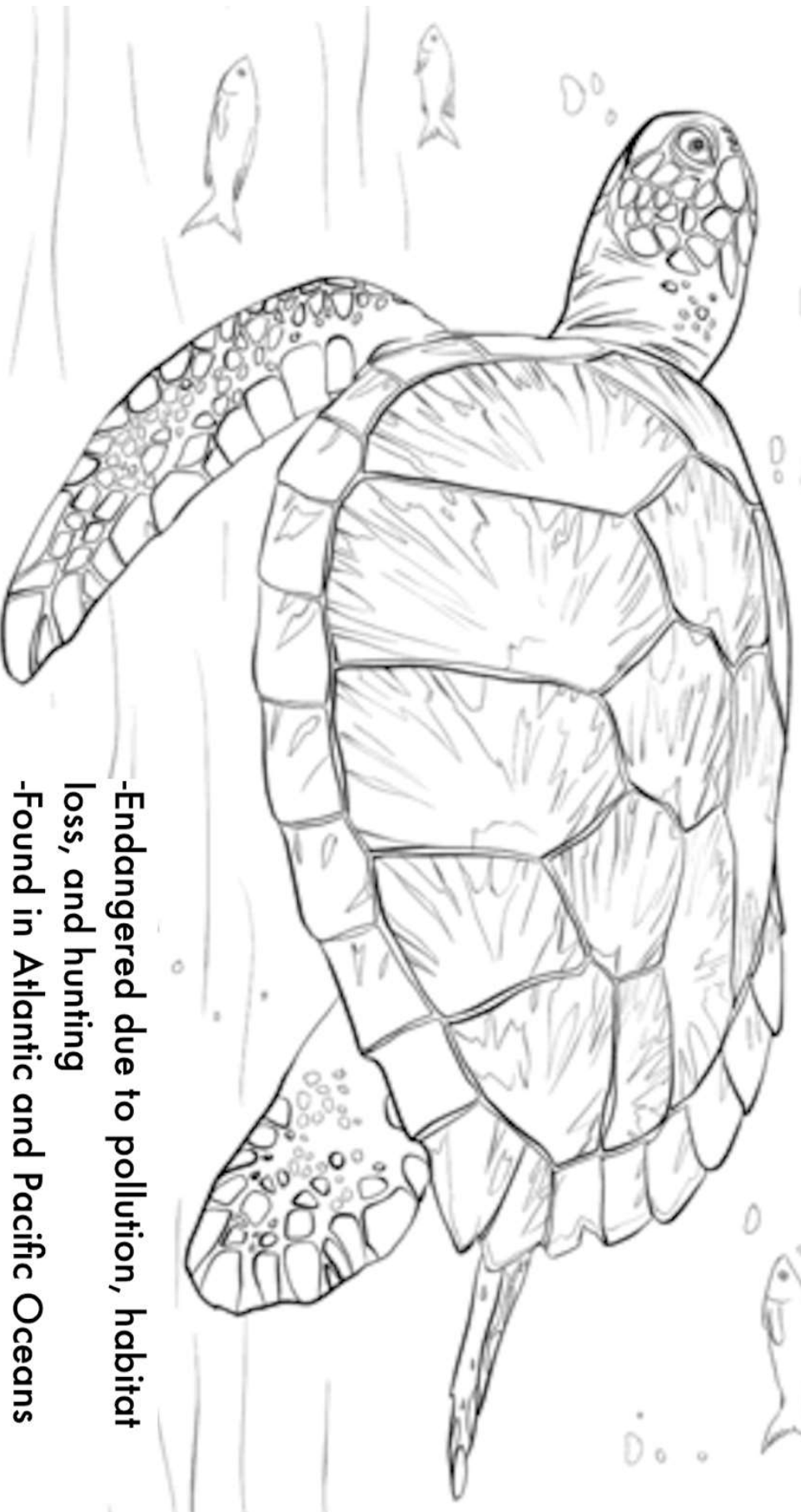




## Amur Leopard

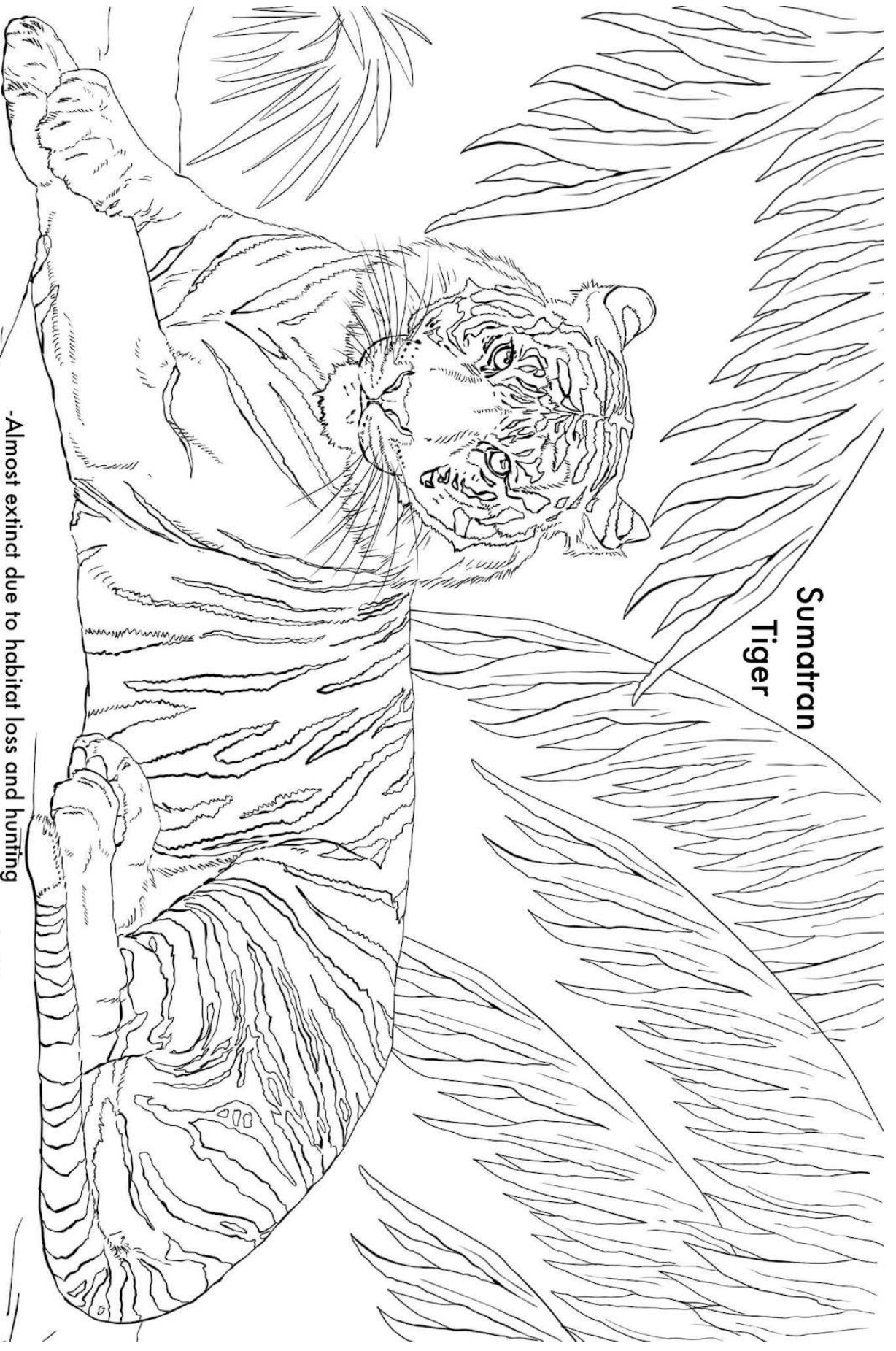
- Critically endangered
- Lives in Russia and China
- Only 110 remain in the wild
- Very soft fur
- Lives in cold and snow

# Green Sea Turtle



- Endangered due to pollution, habitat loss, and hunting
- Found in Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
- Eats seagrass
- Can live to be 90 years old

**Sumatran  
Tiger**



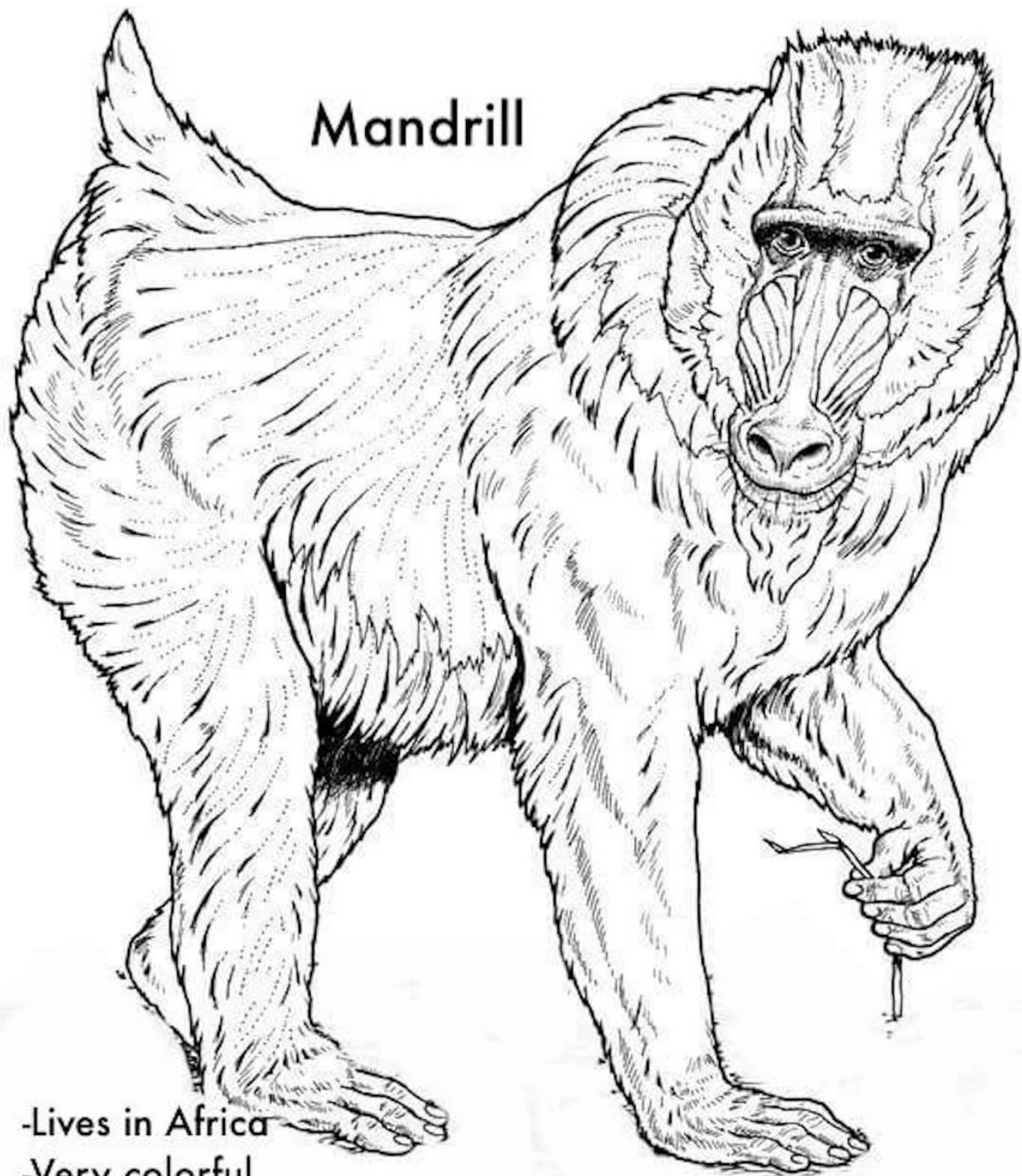
- Almost extinct due to habitat loss and hunting
- Lives in Indonesia
- Lives in forests

## Goliath Frog

- Endangered due to hunting
- Lives in Africa
- Largest frog in the world
- Eats spiders, worms, fish and turtles



## Mandrill



- Lives in Africa
- Very colorful
- Eats fruit
- Sleeps in trees
- Almost endangered

# Mountain Gorilla

- Endangered
- Lives in Uganda and Rwanda
- Eats leaves and stems
- Gentle and shy



# Red Panda



- Endangered
- Lives on the continent of Asia
- Primarily a herbivore



# Black Rhinoceros



-Endangered

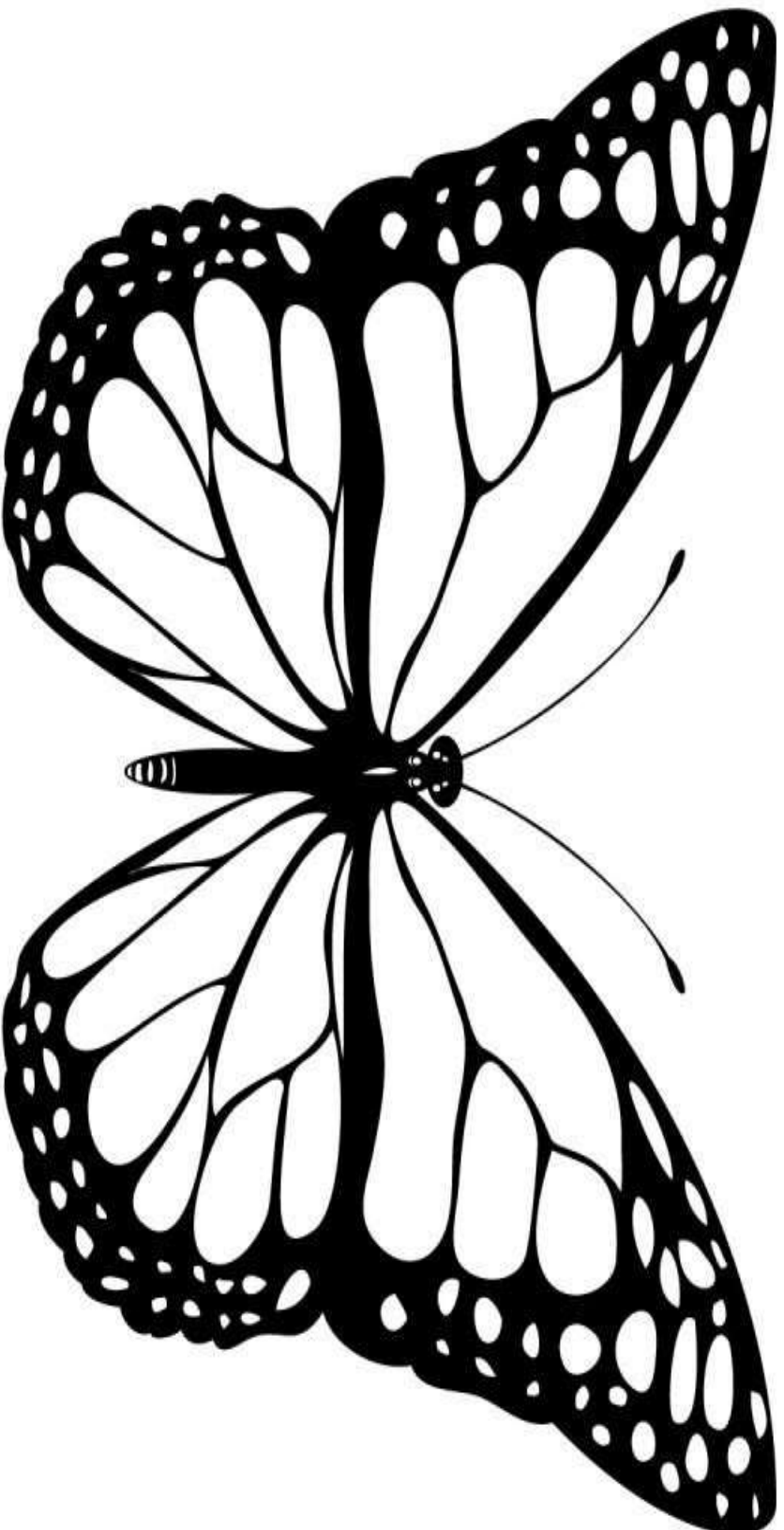
-Have poor vision

-Communicate through

honks and sneezes

-Loves the mud

# Monarch Butterfly



- Endangered
- Has a long migration journey
- Poisonous to predators

# Lesson 2: Africa and Endangered Animals (K-1st Grade)

## Lesson Summary

Lesson Duration: 45 minutes

This lesson is an introduction to some background information about the continent of Africa. Students will identify Africa on a map, explore some facts about Africa and learn about a variety of endangered animals. The end of the lesson will discuss vulnerable and endangered animals in Africa, leading to the Mountain Gorilla.

## Required Materials

Corresponding slides - Wild About...! Lesson One K/1st

**Books:**

- *Africa* by Zukiswa Wanner

**Videos:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSYHMWmyVfo>
- <https://youtu.be/Ex7bSKqw4aw>

**Activities:**

- *Where do I live?* Worksheet
- Africa and North America Venn Diagram
- Endangered and Vulnerable Animals of Africa Handwriting pages

**Websites**

- <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/continents/africa/>
- <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/africa.htm>
- Various websites listed on the notes in corresponding slides\*

## Essential Question

How is Africa different from North America?

What endangered animals live in Africa?

## Learning Goal

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

I can recognize some endangered animals from Africa.

## Lesson Guide

### Part I: Africa

#### Slides 2:

Show the slide with the map of the world. Discuss where we live and where Africa is.

“This is a map of the world! Do you know which continent we live on? That’s right! We live in 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.

#### Slide 3:

Ask the discussion question, “What do you know about Africa?”. Have students share what they think they already know about Africa. You can write down students’ answers and refer back to them later.

#### Slide 4:

Africa is a REALLY big continent. As a matter of fact - it is the second largest in the world. There are 54 countries in Africa.

Photo: Africa is so big, the continental US, Alaska, and China could fit inside Africa.

Visit [www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/continents/africa/](http://www.dkfindout.com/us/earth/continents/africa/) for interactive information about Africa.

#### Slide 5:

Africa is a tropical continent. This is because areas of Africa maintain a monthly temperature of 64°F or higher with two seasons: wet/rainy season and the dry season

([www.worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/tropical-countries](http://www.worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/tropical-countries)). The equator runs right through the middle of the continent, which means it is the closest to the sun.

#### Slide 6:

The hottest temperatures in Africa occur in the Sahara Desert, where temperatures can soar to 117°F. The Virunga Mountains is considered Africa’s most biodiverse protected area and is home to over one thousand species. (<https://virunga.org/>)

#### Slide 7:

Destination: World video (<https://youtu.be/PSYHMWmyVfo>)

#### Slide 8:

Hand out the continents map. Have students color where we live (North America) **blue** and where we are studying (Africa) **yellow**.

## Explanation

### Size

- Africa is the second-largest continent. (Asia is the largest in the world!)
- It's so big, the United States, Alaska, China and Europe can fit inside the entire continent!
- There are 54 countries in Africa.

### Climate

- The equator runs through the middle of Africa.
- Since the equator is the part of the Earth that is closest to the sun, parts of Africa have warm temperatures.
- It can be hot during the day and cool at night.

### Landforms

- The Sahara Desert is the biggest desert in the world. To learn more about the Sahara Desert, visit [www.britannica.com/place/Sahara-desert-Africa/People](http://www.britannica.com/place/Sahara-desert-Africa/People).
- Mountain pictured: [www.britannica.com/place/Virunga-Mountains](http://www.britannica.com/place/Virunga-Mountains). 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 amphibian as well as 1/3 of the world's endangered mountain gorillas (<https://virunga.org/>).
- Mount Kilimanjaro is Africa's highest free-standing mountain, and snow capped. For more information about Mount Kilimanjaro, [education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/kilimanjaro](http://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/kilimanjaro).

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>)

## Activity

*Where do I live?* Map Coloring (pg. 24 in the facilitator's guide)

**Directions:** Use slide #8 to have students identify Africa on a continental map by coloring the continent yellow. They will also identify North America by coloring the continent blue. Students can also label North America and Africa.

### Part II: Endangered Animals in Africa

- Ethiopian Wolf
- African Savanna Elephant
- **Mountain Gorilla**
- Pygmy Hippopotamus

## Explanation

*Africa* by Zukiswa Wanner

## Vocabulary

**Endangered** - many of Africa's plant and animal species are in danger of dying out. Endangered species is one that meets any of the following criteria: 50-70% population decrease over 10 years, a total geographic area less than 5,000 kilometers, adult population size less than 2,500.

## Explanation

Slide 10:

Shares four endangered animals in Africa. Each photo is hyperlinked to find more information about each animal. Click the slide again for a quick fact about each animal.

**Mountain Gorilla:** Threatened by poaching, habitat loss, and wars between humans. The mountain gorilla is the only population of great apes that is increasing in the wild. This is due in large part to the conservation efforts of DFGF.

**Pygmy Hippopotamus:** There are fewer than 2,000 left in the wild. Their habitat is getting destroyed and they are hunted for their meat.

**Ethiopian Wolf:** Farmland has grown over so much of its habitat.

**African Savanna Elephant:** Often killed for their tusks.

Slide 11:

<https://youtu.be/Ex7bSKqw4aw> - This video explores different animals throughout the continent of Africa that are endangered or vulnerable.

## Optional Activities/Resources:

Handwriting Page - animals from the video have their own writing page (pg. 25-30 in the facilitator's guide). Students can practice writing their name, share some facts, or color a picture.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

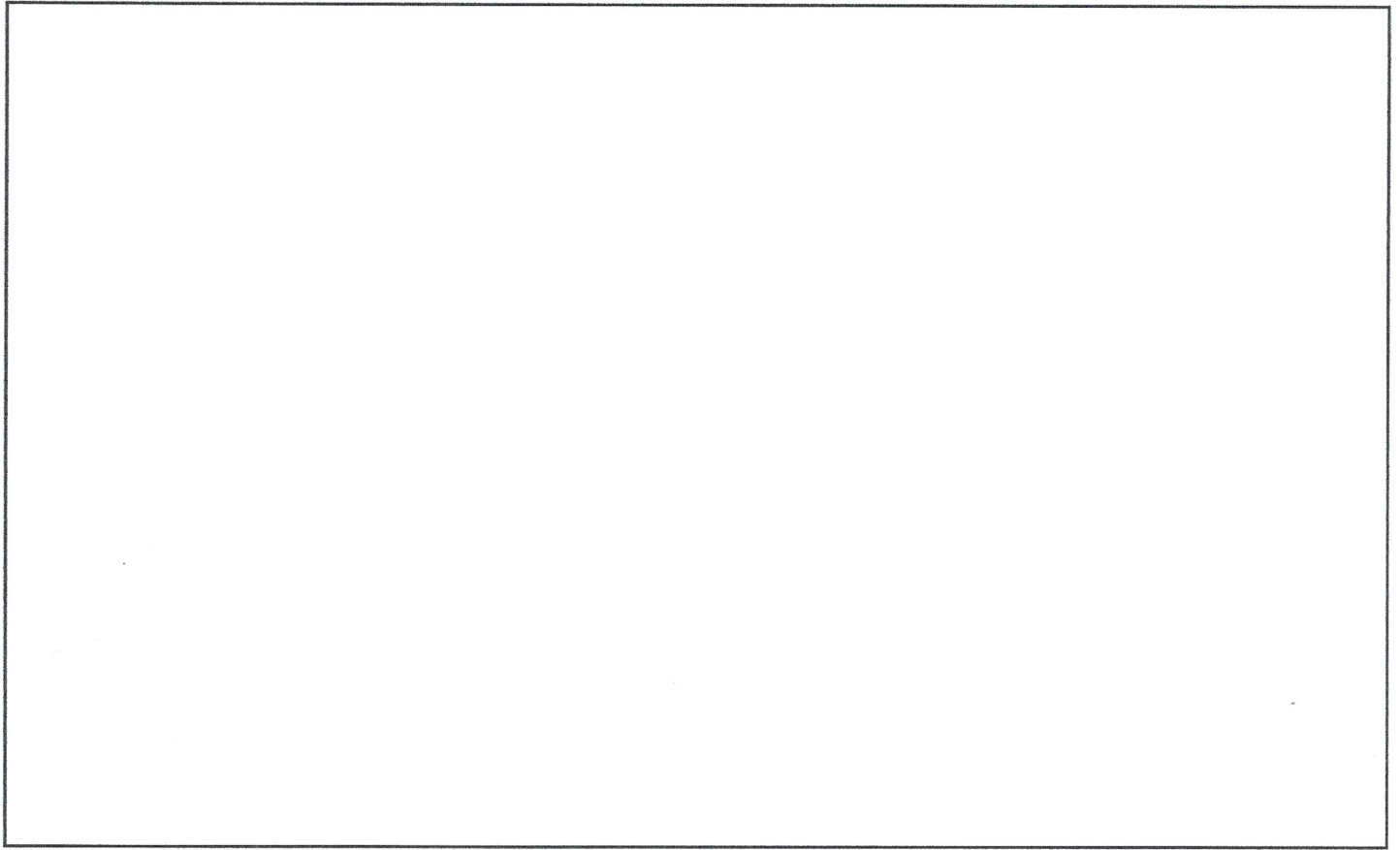
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Seven Continents Map



Name \_\_\_\_\_

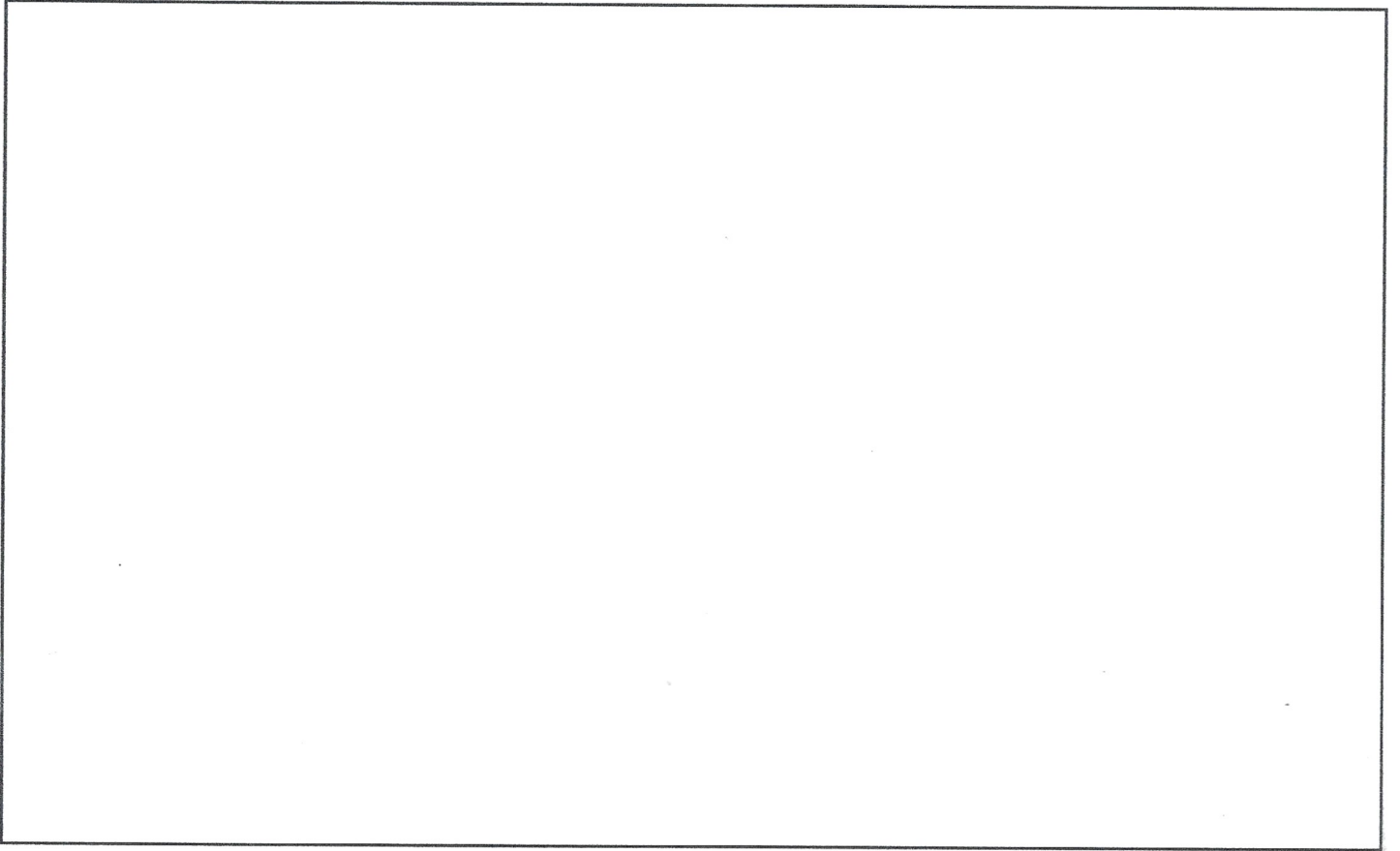


African Elephant

Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



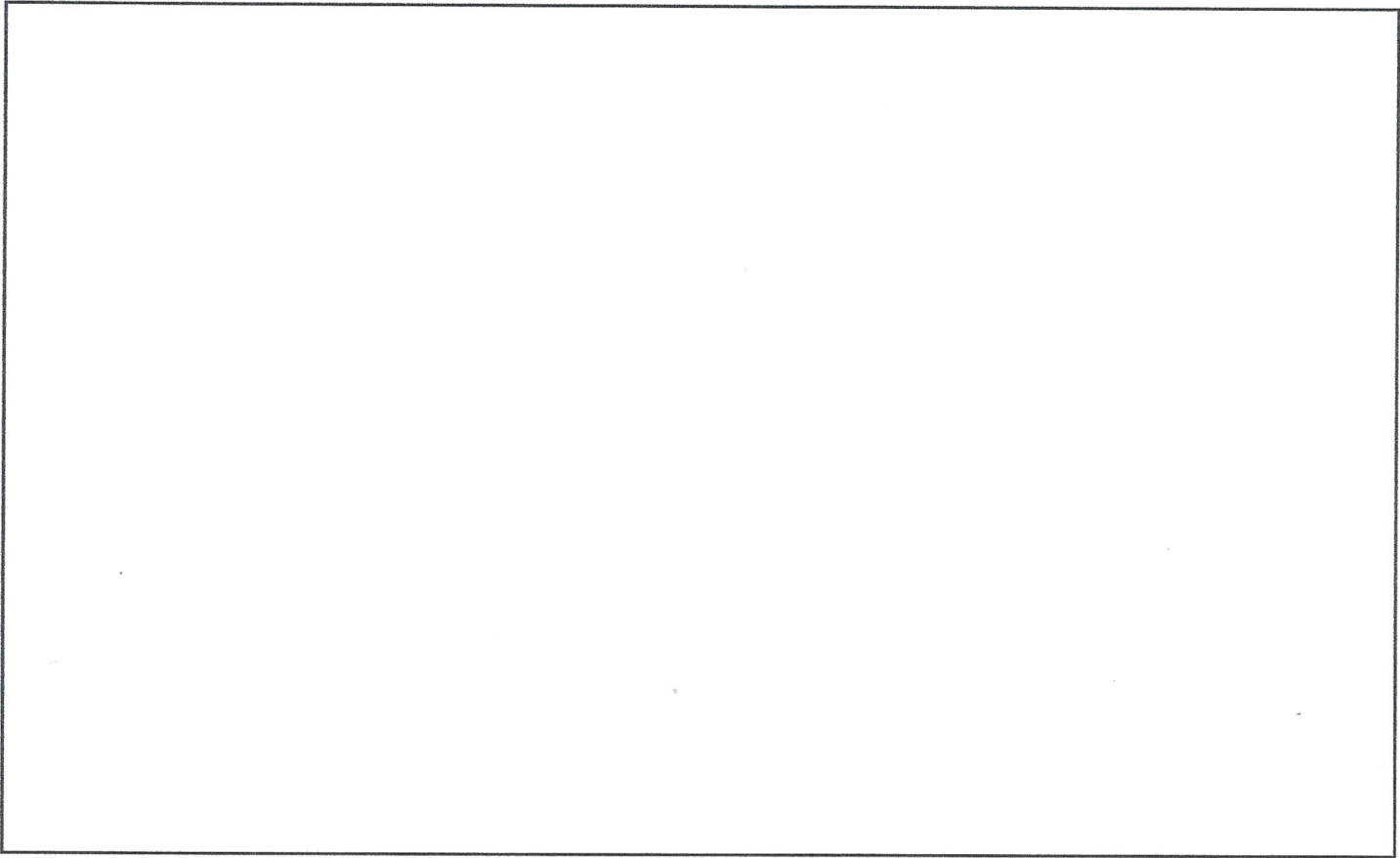
Name \_\_\_\_\_



Cheetah

Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

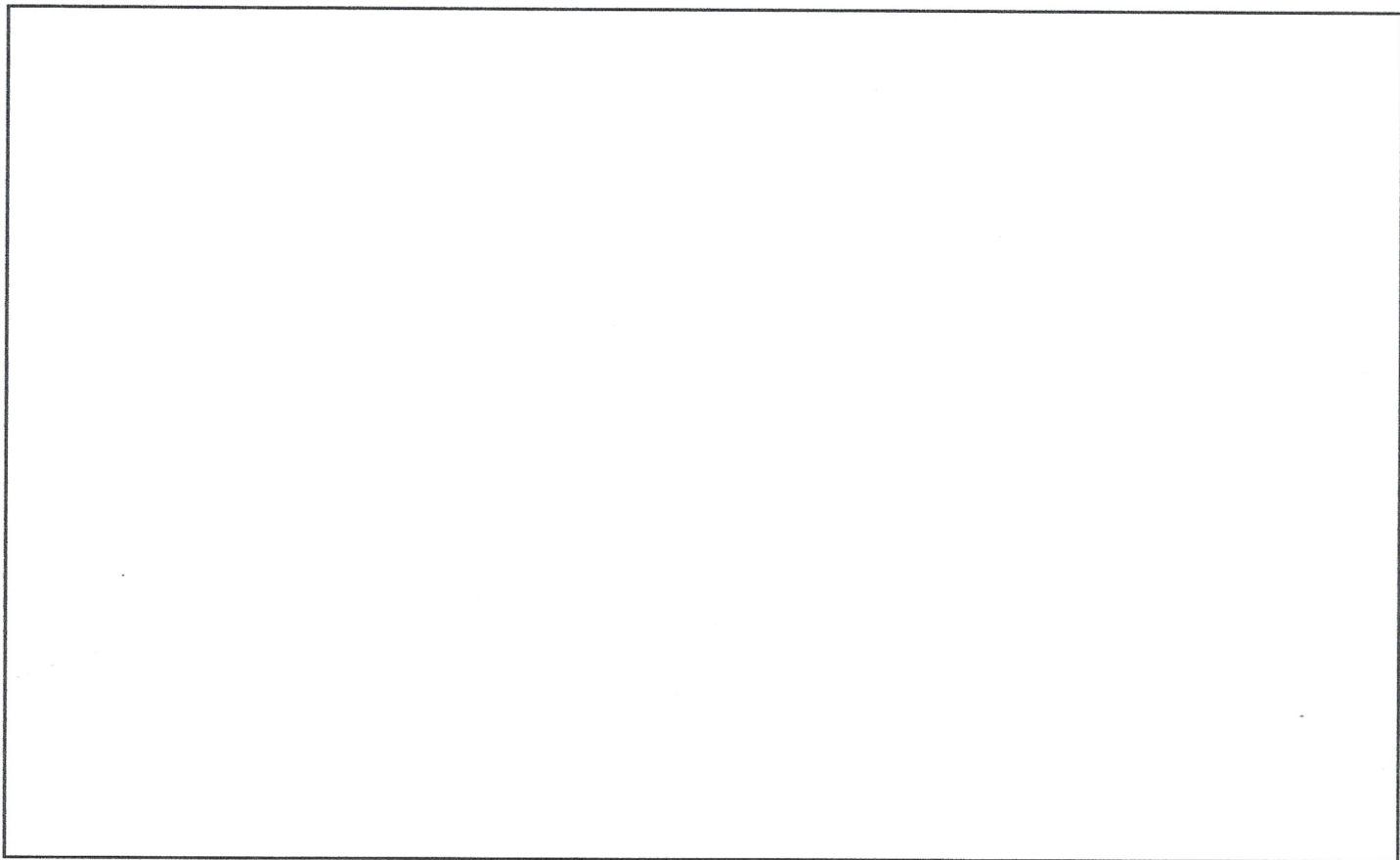
Name \_\_\_\_\_



Ethiopian Wolf

Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

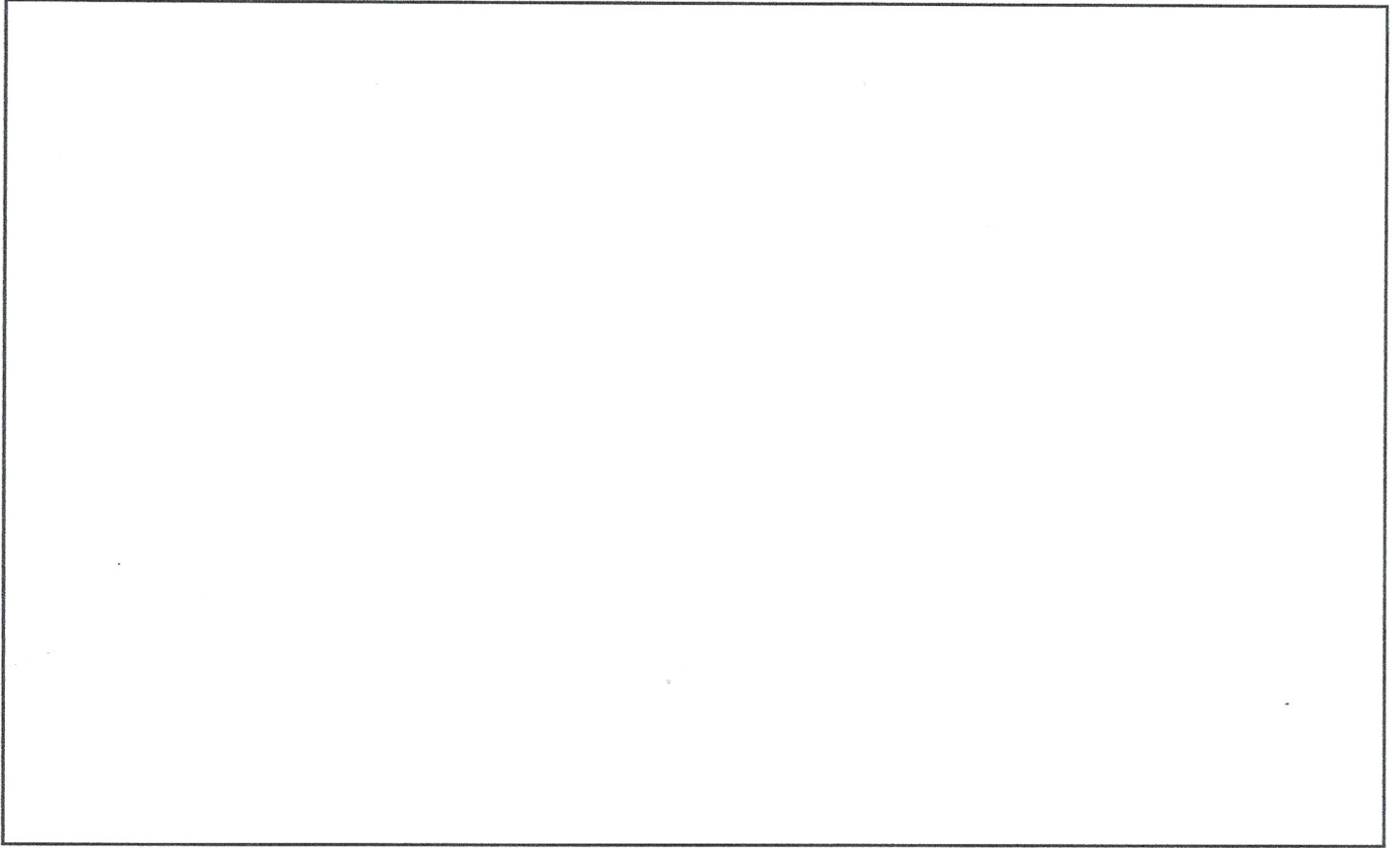
Name \_\_\_\_\_



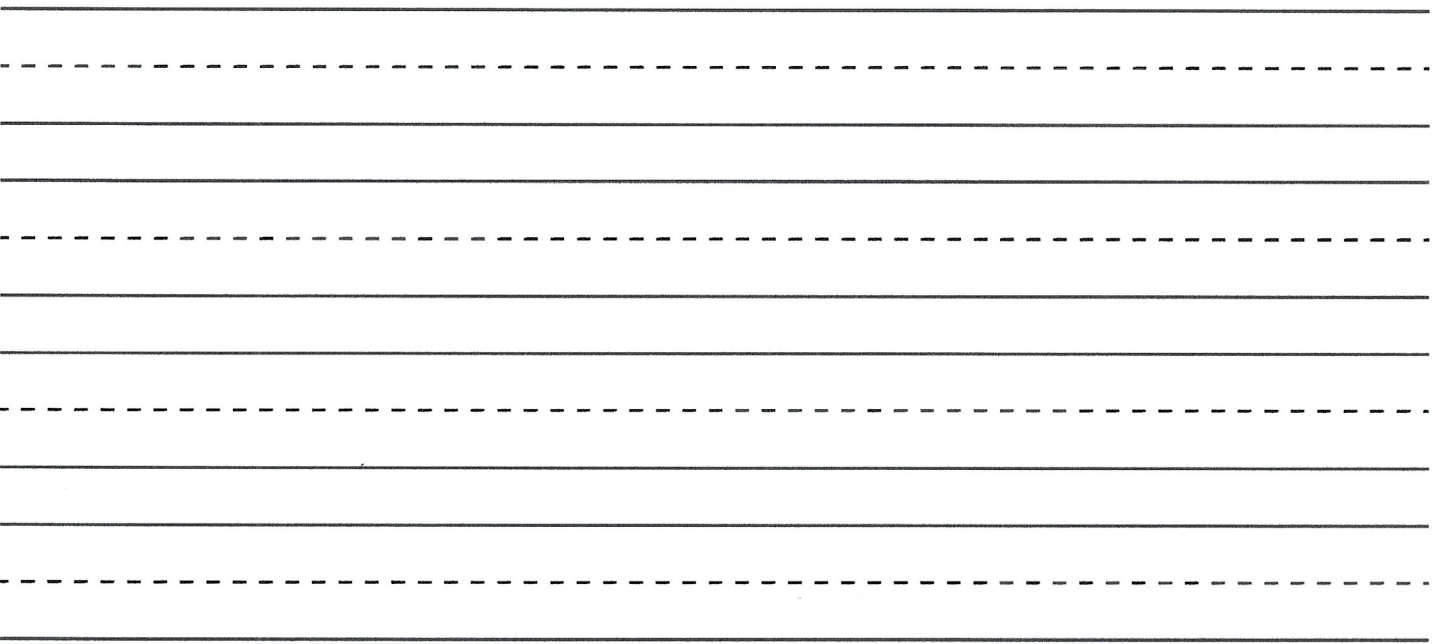
Lion

Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

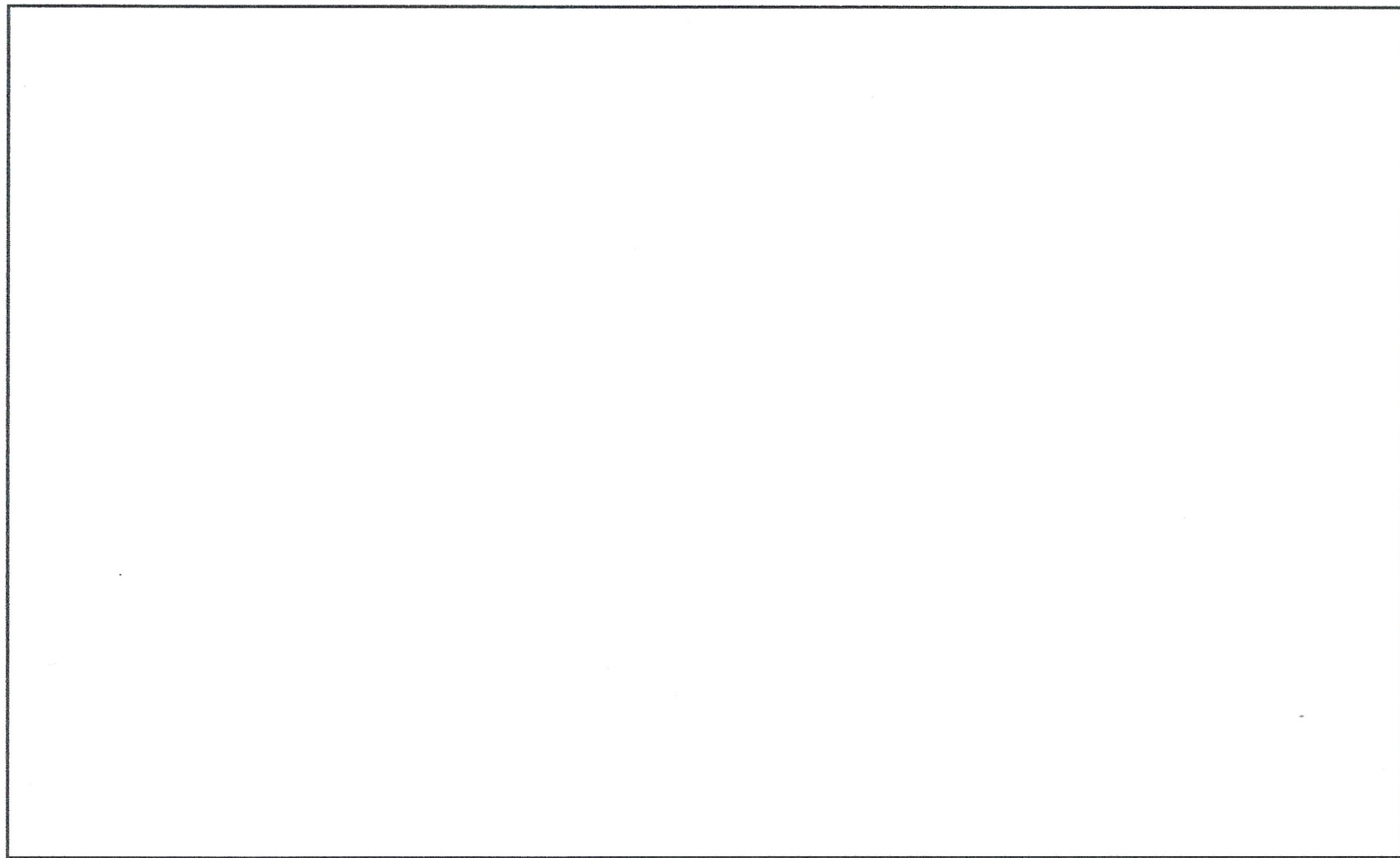
Name \_\_\_\_\_



Mountain Gorilla



Name \_\_\_\_\_



Pygmy Hippopotamus

Four sets of handwriting practice lines. Each set consists of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

## Lesson 3: Gorillas (K-1st Grade)

### Lesson Summary

**Lesson Duration: 45 minutes**

This lesson is an introduction to some background information about gorillas. Students will identify the differences between the Western Lowland Gorilla and Mountain Gorilla. Students will be introduced to the Western Lowland Gorillas that live at the OKC Zoo. The lesson will shift the focus to the Mountain Gorillas of Rwanda and the dangers gorillas face in the wild. The end of the lesson will introduce Dian Fossey, and her efforts of conservation. The corresponding slides also have instructor information in the “notes” section of each slide.

### Required Materials

**Corresponding slides**

**Read Aloud Books:**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H8WR77cOMI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H8WR77cOMI) - Fiction Read Aloud
- *Gorillas* by Grace Hansen
- *Gorillas* by Gail Gibbons
- *Go Go Gorillas: A Romping Bedtime Tale* by Patrick Wensink

**Optional Videos:**

- [pbskids.org/video/cat-in-the-hat/2365543153](http://pbskids.org/video/cat-in-the-hat/2365543153) - Gorilla Behavior
- <https://youtu.be/rAWzFWqWsOI> - Leo the Wildlife Ranger, Mountain Gorilla

**Websites:**

- [ABDOkids.com/gorillas](http://ABDOkids.com/gorillas) (Code: AGK8942)
- [www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/gorillas](http://www.wwf.org.uk/learn/fascinating-facts/gorillas)
- [kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/mountain-gorilla](http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/mountain-gorilla)

**Optional Activities/Resources (all in the facilitator's guide at the end of this lesson):**

Gorilla Foraging - students will learn about gorillas and how they forage for their food.

Ape Cardboard Roll Craft - using a cardboard roll, students will create their own gorilla.

Western Lowland Coloring Sheet

Opposable Thumb Experiment - Try this simple experiment to test the usefulness of your opposable thumbs!

Create a Habitat - get your creative juices flowing! Draw, paint, color, or cut and glue items to create a habitat for the silverback.

World Gorilla Day Activity Ideas

### Essential Question

Why are gorillas important?

What dangers do gorillas face?

## Learning Goal

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

I can define dangers to gorillas and describe conservation efforts that protect them

## Lesson Guide

### Part I: Wild About Gorillas

Beginning the Lesson - Pick a book to read aloud. Suggestions below:

1. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H8WR77cOMI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4H8WR77cOMI) - *Gorilla* by Anthony Browne
  - a. Share the read aloud video.
    - i. Prompting questions:
      1. -How do you think gorillas travel in the wild?
      2. What is a primate?
      3. How did the orangutan and chimpanzee look different from the gorillas?
      4. What was the gorilla's snack? (Bananas)
2. [a.co/d/h6FXxCf](https://a.co/d/h6FXxCf) - *Gorillas* by Grace Hansen

### "Wild About Gorillas" Slides

#### Explanation:

It's important to understand what makes gorillas so unique. From their amazing anatomy and temperament, to their survival in the wild. Part One of this lesson will focus on understanding and appreciating what makes gorillas so amazing.

#### Vocabulary:

**Primate:** Animals with flexible hands and feet with opposable first digits, good eyesight, and a highly developed brain.

**Diurnal** - animals that are awake and active during the day.

#### Slide 2:

Prompt the question, "What do you know about Gorillas?". Have students share what they think they already know. You can write down students' answers and refer back to them later. Encourage students to tap into the information read during the read aloud. After a brief discussion, ask the students if they have any questions about gorillas that we might be able to answer today. Make a list.

### Slide 3:

True or False: Gorillas live in trees? Have students look closely at the pictures. What do they notice?

### Slide 4:

FALSE! Gorillas DO like to climb trees and swing occasionally, but they do not live in trees. Follow along for where gorillas DO live!

### Slide 5-6:

Gorillas live in groups called “troops”. Each troop has a silverback male gorilla that is in charge and protects the troop. Gorillas only live in the forests of Africa, along the equator. They spend most of their time eating and sleeping. They make nests to sleep in. \*\*Check on the PBS videos linked on this slide to help Gordon the Gorilla build a nest!\*\*

### Slide 7-10:

Gorillas are very complex! Not only are they the largest type of ape, they are very gentle and shy. Gorillas do not have tails and are *diurnal*. Silverbacks defend their families by roaring, beating their chests, charging or biting at danger. They have a good memory and can solve many problems. They eat leaves, fruits, bamboo shoots, and termites.

### Slide 11:

Gorilla anatomy very closely resembles humans! One major difference is that gorillas have a thumb and a big toe! They use their big toe to pick up objects with their feet. It also helps them eat. Gorillas use their fingernails for opening, scraping, cleaning and scratching. \*\*Check out the Opposable Thumb Activity that goes with this slide!\*\*

### Slide 12:

This slide shows a photograph comparing the four species of gorillas: Mountain, Cross River, Western Lowland and Eastern Lowland. What do your students notice about traits they have in common? How are they different?

### Slide 13:

Let’s compare the Western Lowland Gorillas to the Mountain Gorillas. The Western Lowland Gorillas have shorter, lighter hair and are the smallest of all gorillas. The Mountain Gorillas have darker, longer hair to keep them warm in the mountains. They are usually bigger than the Western Lowland Gorillas. As babies, they can be as little as 4 pounds at birth! They live in cloud forests, which is a type of rainforest. Western Lowland Gorillas live in Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, on the west side of Africa. Mountain Gorillas live in Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda, more in the center of the continent. Refer to the links in the note section of Slide 13 for more information.

### Slide 14:

This video will share some cute footage and facts about the Western Lowland Gorillas. (1:47)

### Slide 15-18:

Why are gorillas important to the earth? There are many threats to gorillas. The main threats are disease, poaching, habitat loss and snares. Civil unrest also plays a big part in their safety.

- At the end of Part 1, go through some of the activities listed at the end of this lesson in the facilitator's guide.



## Explanation

The OKC Zoo is home to ten Western Lowland Gorillas. Seven gorillas live together in the family troop while three males live together in the “bachelor pad”. You can even read the interview with the primate caregiver, Stephanie by visiting [www.okczoo.org/blog/posts/gorillagab](http://www.okczoo.org/blog/posts/gorillagab)

### Slide 20 - 21:

In human care, gorillas can thrive in a variety of ways. Some gorillas have displayed significant intelligence and have even learned simple human sign language! You can learn more about the troops at the OKC Zoo by clicking the link in the notes section of slide 21.

### Slides 22-33:

Introduces you to the amazing gorilla troops at the OKC Zoo! Allow students time to talk and ask questions.

### Slide 34:

Why are gorillas at the zoo important? They help humans understand and learn more about gorillas. Gorillas in the zoo can also live up to 15 years longer. Be sure to click on the “Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund” logo for a link to a teaser for Lesson 4!

### Closing

Gorillas are unique and complex creatures. What is causing harm to these majestic creatures? (refer to slide 17). According to *Animals on the Brink: Gorillas* By Patricia Miller-Schroeder, all gorillas seem to have one main competitor - humans. Humans are competing for gorilla’s habitats, poaching, setting snares, bringing diseases, and causing civil unrest which results in wildlife being stuck in the crosshairs. The gentle mountain gorillas of the Virunga Mountains have reached a status of endangered. What might have been a bleak outlook for the subspecies just a couple of decades ago has brightened in recent years due to conservation efforts

(<https://www.worldwildlife.org/species/mountain-gorilla>). Although it looks more hopeful, we cannot be complacent. In the next lesson, we will learn about the life-long efforts of Dian Fossey and her continued legacy for the mountain gorillas.

At the end of lesson 2, display the teaser/preview slide for lesson 4.

# World Gorilla Day:



## *Forage like a Gorilla*

*In this activity, kids will learn about gorillas and how they forage for their food.*

**Age:** Children ages 4 - 7

### **Gather your Gear**

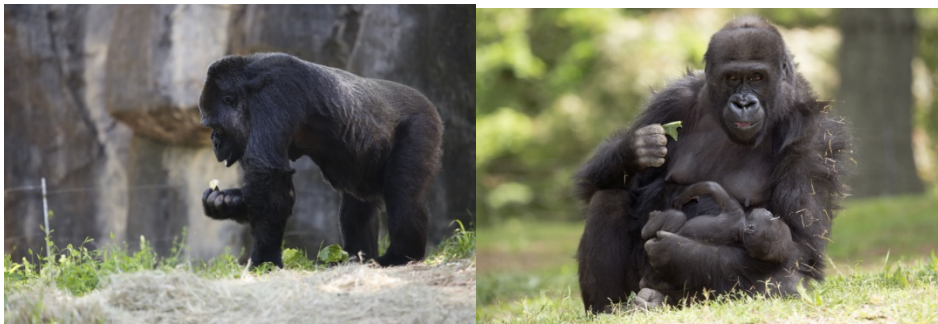
- Large plastic bin or kiddie pool
- Shredded paper, paper/fabric scraps, straw, leaves, strips of crinkle paper, etc.
- Toys/artificial food (you can use something else to represent food as well)

**Get Ready** *You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*

Zoo Atlanta is currently home to one of the largest populations of western lowland gorillas in North America. Most gorillas live in family groups known as troops. These troops can consist of five to 30 individuals, although the average size is 11. The group is led by a dominant silverback male and contains several adult females and their young.

Gorillas are **herbivores**, meaning the majority of their diet is plant material. In the wild, western lowland gorillas feed on plant parts including seeds, leaves, stems, shoots, roots, and flowers; however, they prefer fruit whenever it's in season. Occasionally they will eat insects, such as termites or ants, as a supplement to their diet when they are readily available. Due to their dietary preferences, western lowland gorillas spend a lot of their time in and around trees, especially fruit trees. A large portion of a gorilla's day is spent foraging for food. One adaptation that gorillas have to make this task easier is their large, dexterous hands that allow them to pick up small, delicate objects. Like their hands, their feet have opposable thumbs and toes, making grasping and holding items even easier.

In this activity, you will practice foraging for food just like a gorilla!



### **Activity Instructions: Forage like a Gorilla**

# World Gorilla Day:



## *Forage like a Gorilla*

- Fill the plastic bin/kiddie pool with the shredded paper, paper/fabric scraps, straw, leaves, strips of crinkle paper, etc. to create the forest brush.
- Take your toys/artificial fruit and bury them in the bin.
- Dig through the bin, moving the “forest brush” to find the fruit! This emulates how a gorilla will forage for its food. Notice how you use your opposable thumbs like a gorilla!

**Recap** *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- What species of gorilla lives at Zoo Atlanta?
- What is a gorilla family group known as?
- What do gorillas eat and how do they get their food?

## **Relate**

What is your favorite food and where does it come from? Spend some time talking as a family about where our food comes from – grocery stores, farmers markets, and/or grown at home. Imagine that you are a gorilla and think about what it would be like to spend your day looking for food in a large forest.

Just like we enjoy the safety of our homes, gorillas rely upon their forest habitats for food, water, and shelter. One of the main threats to gorillas is habitat loss because of the mining of coltan. Coltan is a mineral that is found in electronic devices such as cell phones and tablets.

**Recycle your cell phones!** You can protect gorillas and gorilla habitat by recycling your old cell phone(s) right here at the Zoo! Recycling cell phones and other small electronic devices protects gorilla habitat by reducing the need to mine for coltan, which can be reused. We accept *any* kind of cell phone to be recycled with Eco-Cell. For each cell phone received, gorillas benefit in two ways: the threat to their habitat is reduced, and a donation is made to support the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International’s gorilla conservation and research.

## **It takes a team.... join ours**

Help us save species by joining the “Zoo Conservation Corps” and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtags #OnlyZooATL and #WorldGorillaDay so that we can see all your great work!

## **Want to know more?**

- For more on World Gorilla Day and gorilla conservation, go to: <https://gorillafund.org/>

# World Gorilla Day:



## *Forage like a Gorilla*

- To learn more about cell phone recycling and Gorillas on the Line visit:  
<https://zooatlanta.org/conservation-action/gorillas-on-the-line/>
- Visit Zoo Atlanta so see and learn more about western lowland gorillas!

# Ape Toilet Paper Roll Craft

([www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/mape.html](http://www.dltk-teach.com/alphabuddies/mape.html))

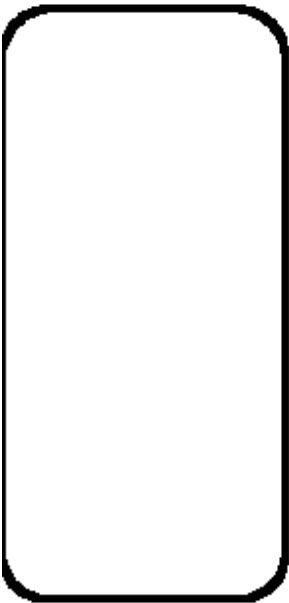
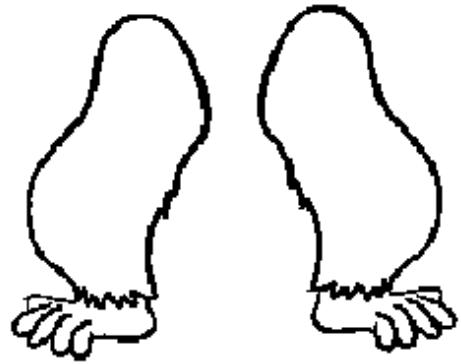
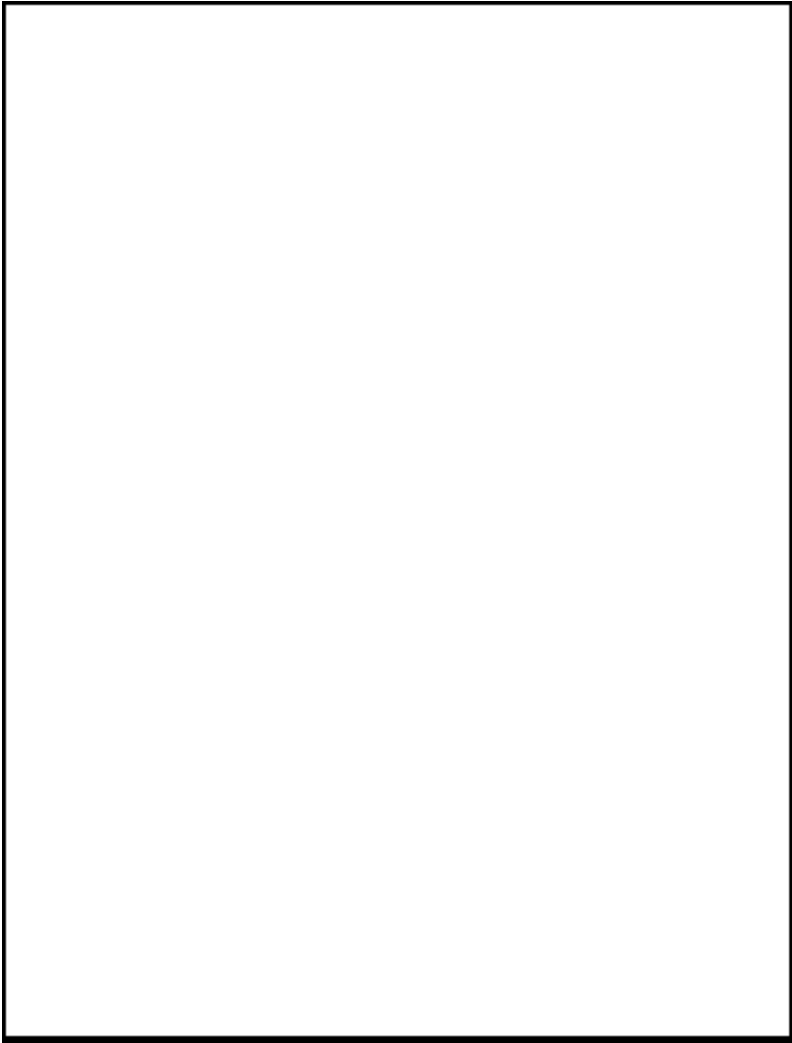
## Materials:

- Toilet paper roll
- Printable Ape Template
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons

## Instructions:

- Print the ape template
- Color the pieces and cut them out
- Glue the large rectangular piece around the toilet paper roll
- Glue on the chest
- Glue on the head, arms, and legs





# Opposable Thumb Experiment

Courtesy of *Amazing Primates: Gorillas* By: Pamela McDowell.

Like other great apes, gorillas have opposable thumbs. This means the thumbs can move in many directions and touch the palm of the hand and each finger. Gorillas use their opposable thumbs to grasp plant stems, pick up termites, and break fruit apart. Infants use them to grip their mother's fur. Humans also use their opposable thumbs to do many things each day. Try this experiment to test the usefulness of your opposable thumbs.

## Materials Needed:

- Tape
- A piece of paper
- Pencil
- Scissors
- A few coins

## Step 1:

Try some or all of these activities:

- Write your name on a piece of paper with a pencil.
- Untie your shoe, take it off, and toss it to a friend.
- Put your shoe back on and retie it.
- Draw a large circle on the paper and cut it out with scissors.
- Drop the coins on the floor and pick them up

## Step 2:

Have someone help you tape your thumbs to the first finger of each hand.

## Step 3:

Now, try each of the activities from step 1 again. Which of the activities are more difficult without your thumb? Are any of them impossible to do?

## Step 4:

Gorillas also have an opposable toe on each foot. What things could you do if you had opposable toes? Write a paragraph, discuss with a friend, draw a picture, etc. to share how opposable toes could be useful!

# Create Your Own Gorilla Habitat

**Directions:** In the gorilla picture below, use different methods to create a habitat for the gorilla. You can use crayons, markers, colored pencils, watercolor, etc. Be sure to color your gorilla. Get creative and see what objects you can use to texturize his habitat. Forage for leaves, twigs, grass and glue them on. The opportunities are endless! Don't forget, gorillas love to eat. What foods can you give him? What will you name your new silverback?







## World Gorilla Day Suggested Activities

### **Forage like a Gorilla (*intergenerational, children, family groups*)**

Focus: gorilla feeding strategies and diet

Activity: Fill a small plastic kiddie pool or tub with shredded paper, paper scraps, and/or straw to create bedding (though mindful of allergies if using straw). Within the bedding bury and hide plastic/artificial food. Encourage guests to dig through the bedding to find the food, emulating how a gorilla forages.

Interpretation: A staff member, volunteer, or teen volunteer can talk with guests about how gorillas find food in the wild and how animal care staff tries to feed them in different and challenging ways within the Zoo. (See “gorilla facts” for more detailed information on gorilla diet, feeding behaviors, and quantity.)

### **Gorilla Nose Prints (*intergenerational, children, family groups*)**

Focus: Individual traits of gorillas, how researchers can tell gorillas apart, noses like thumbprints

Activity: Visit [www.gorillafund.org/learning-materials](http://www.gorillafund.org/learning-materials) and download and print out the “Nose prints” PDF. See if guests can match which gorilla belongs to which nose print. Take it one step further: Get a picture of a gorilla nose at YOUR institution and see if guests can identify which gorilla at your zoo it matches.

Interpretation: Staff member, volunteer, or teen volunteer can talk with guests about the individuality of gorillas, how each is different. Just like how humans have unique fingerprints, gorillas have unique nose prints. This is one way that researchers can tell individuals apart.

### **Handprint over Handprint Pledge/Craft (*intergenerational, children, family groups*)**

Focus: Size comparison between human hand and gorilla hand, creating a connection between humans and gorillas, providing an opportunity for youth to make a pledge to help gorillas).

Activity: Print out sheets with a life-size gorilla handprint on each (prints from gorillas at YOUR own zoo make this even more fun). Add a conservation message, hashtag (#worldgorilladay), logo, or conservation pledge to it if you wish. Guests ink their own handprint (you provide the ink and the hand cleaning station) and make their print over top of, next to, near the gorilla handprint. To make this a pledge, have the pledge written on the paper along with the gorilla print and have the guests print indicate their “signature” signing up to help gorillas. “Some of the parts inside our cell phones and tablets come from mines in places where gorillas live. I pledge to help save gorilla habitat by recycling my old electronics so more of these parts don’t have to be mined.”

Interpretation: Zoo staff, volunteer, or teen volunteer can run this station and help to explain the link between electronics recycling and gorilla conservation. (See EcoCell resources for more information about recycling e-waste to benefit gorillas.)

**Thumbprint Pledge Banner (*intergenerational, family groups, all guests*)**

Focus: provide guests the opportunity to take a pledge to help gorilla conservation.

Activity: Similar set up and message as “Handprint over Handprint” activity. Instead of making handprint however, guests can ink their thumbprint and make their pledge for gorilla conservation by placing their thumbprint mark inside a line drawn gorilla on a vinyl or paper banner. Banner can have conservation messaging, hashtags (#worldgorilladay), or a conservation pledge printed along with the gorilla outline. (See “Handprint over Handprint” activity for example of pledge messaging)

Interpretation: Staff, volunteer, or teen volunteer can run this activity and help to explain the pledge and the link between the conservation action and gorillas.

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Card (*intergenerational, family groups, all guests*)**

Focus: Celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dian Fossey’s Karisoke research center, the longest running gorilla field study site.

Activity: Make a giant Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary card or banner for Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI). Invite guests to sign the card or banner. Take a picture of the completed card and post it on social media to “send” it to DFGFI, #worldgorilladay

**Photo Station (*intergenerational, family groups, all guests*)**

Focus: create a social media presence about World Gorilla Day and share gorilla conservation actions being done by guests

Activity: Create a photo frame out of coroplast, cardboard, or other durable material). Put your Zoo logo and the World Gorilla Day logo (visit the “downloads” section of the worldgorilladay.org for the official logo) on it along with #WorldGorillaDay. Provide props for guests to use during photo opportunities: binoculars, field notebooks, stethoscopes, hats, signs to hold with word bubbles or messages on them (see “Downloads” section for prop signs or create your own). Assist guests in using the props to stage a photo and encourage them to post their pic publicly on social media with #worldgorilladay and maybe even an additional conservation message.

Interpretation: Staff, volunteer, teen volunteers can help run this activity, taking photos with guests phones and helping them post to social media if needed/wanted.

### **Sign a petition (*teens, adults*)**

Focus: To provide guests the opportunity to take direct conservation advocacy action on behalf of gorillas.

Activity: Provide pre-printed letters or tablets open to online petition signing for gorilla-related issues (Stop Coltan Mining, Reauthorize the Multinational Species Conservation Fund, etc.) Guests can sign their names and add their voice to the cause.

### **Electronics Recycling Station (*intergenerational, teens, adults, family groups*)**

Focus: promote cellphone and electronics recycling as a way to contribute to gorilla conservation, to make the connection between coltan, gorilla habitat and our electronics.

Activity: Promote electronics recycling and encourage people to bring unused electronics to the Zoo to recycle at World Gorilla Day celebration. This can also be done as a collection drive at schools, community groups, etc. Electronics can be collected and then brought to the zoo or mailed directly to EcoCell, the official electronics recycling company of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI), proceeds benefit DFGFI gorilla conservation fund. (More information about this can be found in the EcoCell resources linked from [worldgorilladay.org](http://worldgorilladay.org))

## **Other Ideas**

### **Keeper/Researcher Talks**

Feature your own zoo staff and the incredible work they do with gorillas by offering 15-30 minute Keeper Talks at the exhibit or around Zoo grounds throughout the day.

### **Enrichment for Interpretation**

Zoo staff, docents, or volunteers can have example gorilla enrichment items for the public to explore and touch out on zoo grounds or at the gorilla exhibit. Staff member or volunteer can talk with guests about the importance of providing enrichment to gorillas in human care.

### **Special Feedings or Enrichment Times**

Animal care staff might provide special feedings or enrichment items to gorillas on exhibit for World Gorilla Day. Staff from animal care, education, or volunteers can interpret the details of this special experience to guests.

### **Toot your own horns for gorilla conservation**

Share with your community all the incredible ways YOUR zoo is taking action on behalf of gorilla conservation every day. Through interpretive stations, graphics, social media posts, media spots, or other means, highlight the unique things that your zoo does when it comes to caring for gorillas in zoos and in the wild.

## **Gorilla Information and Fun Facts**

*Use this information to help guide educational messaging during your event*

- Gorillas are the largest of all primate species in the world and are well adapted to life in the forests of equatorial Africa.
- Gorillas communicate within their family group and with outside groups using a number of vocalizations, body language and facial expressions.
- Gorillas are social apes and typically live in either a harem society with multiple females and one dominant male leader or a bachelor group consisting of multiple young male gorillas.
- Male gorillas and adult females play different roles in gorilla society and in parental care. The silverback plays the role of protector of his troop.
- Gorillas are primarily herbivores, eating leaves, shoots, stems, fruits and other plant materials. An adult male gorilla may consume up to 50 pounds of vegetation per day so gorillas spend a good bit of their day foraging for food and eating.
- Gorillas are among the longest studied primate species. Research on wild gorillas began in the 1960's with the pioneering work of George Schaller and Dian Fossey studying the behavior and ecology of wild mountain gorillas. Since then, field research on gorillas has expanded to cover all four subspecies and includes topics ranging from population dynamics and behavioral ecology to cognitive ability and epidemiology. Gorillas in zoos have also been the subject of extensive research, providing insights into their behavior, and management. Though research has come a long way, there is still much to learn.
- For more information on gorillas, visit [www.gorillasp.org](http://www.gorillasp.org) or [www.gorillafund.org/learning-fun/](http://www.gorillafund.org/learning-fun/)



## Lesson 4: Dian Fossey (K-1st Grade)

### Lesson Summary

**Lesson Duration: 45 minutes**

This lesson is an introduction to some background information about Dian Fossey. Students will get a brief biography and what led her to her research efforts in Africa. Various activities are provided to support her biography, research components and role in conservation. The end of the lesson will focus on the Karisoke Research Center, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, and their vital contributions to conservation.

### Required Materials

**Corresponding slides**

**Teacher Resource Books:**

- *Unforgotten: The Wild Life of Dian Fossey and Her Relentless Quest to Save Mountain Gorillas* by: Anita Silvey
- *Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey and Birute Galdikas* by Jim Ottaviani and Maris Wicks

**Optional Videos:**

- [bedtimehistorystories.com/the-history-of-dian-fosey-for-kids/](http://bedtimehistorystories.com/the-history-of-dian-fosey-for-kids/)
- [www.kabiraugandasafaris.com/dian-fosey.html](http://www.kabiraugandasafaris.com/dian-fosey.html) - Dian Fossey narrates her life in this video
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOVkJf9LyEk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOVkJf9LyEk) - Jungle Chase brain break

**Websites:**

- [gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fosey/](http://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/dian-fosey/)
- [www.britannica.com/biography/Dian-Fossey](http://www.britannica.com/biography/Dian-Fossey)
- [kidskonnect.com/people/dian-fosey](http://kidskonnect.com/people/dian-fosey)

**Optional Activities/Resources:**

- Dian Fossey Color and Handwriting Page - trace/color the information about Dian Fossey
- Know Your Noses Activity - courtesy of Zoo Atlanta
- Dian Fossey Paper Doll

### Essential Question

Who was Dian Fossey and what important role did she play in gorilla conservation?

### Learning Goal

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

## Lesson Guide

### Wild About Dian Fossey

A variety of optional videos has been added to the first page of Lesson 4 facilitator's guide. These can be used to open the lesson, mid lesson or to close the lesson.

### "Wild About Dian Fossey" Slides

#### **Explanation:**

In order to understand gorillas and the vital role they play in maintaining the biodiversity of their forest home, we must first understand the important history of Dian Fossey. Dian Fossey was an American primatologist known for researching mountain gorillas. She was one of the leading researchers in her field, as well as a conservationist who fought against poaching and worked to preserve gorilla habitats.

#### **Vocabulary:**

Karisoke Research Center  
Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

#### **Wild About Dian Fossey Slides:**

Be sure to check the notes section of each slide for background information, optional websites and a more detailed explanation.

#### **Closing**

Lesson 4 ends with the legacy of Dian Fossey, and the current CEO of Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund, Dr. Tara Stoinski. It's important to note that conservation efforts continue despite Dian's early demise. Optional activities are listed at the end of the Lesson 4 facilitator guide.

#### **Extension Idea**

Design, color and/or write a thank you card to Dian Fossey for her brave contributions to gorilla research and conservation.





Who Was Dian Fossey?

Dian Fossey was an

American zoologist who

established the Karisoke

Research Center Her

efforts to study and

protect mountain gorillas

continues through the

Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund

# World Gorilla Day:



## *Know your Noses*

***In this activity, participants will learn how researchers in the wild tell individual gorillas apart. Match the nose prints to the gorilla profile photo.***

**Age:** Children ages 7-12

### **Gather your Gear**

- Optional: Print out the Nose Print and Gorilla Profile sheets

**Get Ready** *You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*

There are two species of gorilla, each containing two subspecies. The two species are eastern and western, and the four sub-species are Cross River and western lowland (sub-species of the western species) and Grauer's and mountain (sub-species of the eastern species). All gorilla species are found in central Africa and listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. Researchers study gorillas so that we have a better understanding of their habitat, behaviors, life cycles, and physical and biological attributes – all in an effort to learn more so that we can help conserve them.

Studying individual gorillas can be tricky – unless you know what you are looking for. Humans have unique fingerprints. Similarly, no two gorillas have the same nose print! Researchers who study wild gorillas use photos of nose prints to identify individuals. This allows them to keep track of individual gorillas throughout their lifetimes.

### **Activity Instructions:**

- Optional: Print out the Nose Print and Gorilla Profile activity sheets found below.
- Observe each nose print and find the photo of the gorilla it belongs to.
- Once finished, check the answer key found below.

### **Answer Key:**

A = Lulu; B = Charlie; C = Jasiri; D = Kudzoo; E = Mbeli; F = Ozzie; G = Taz; H = Choomba

**Recap** *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- How does a gorilla nose print database help researchers studying gorillas in the wild?
- What do you think researchers could learn about individual gorillas by studying them over their lifetimes?
- What might be some challenges to studying gorillas in the wild?

### **Relate**

As we noted before, all gorilla species are either listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. That means that there are not many left of them in the wild. One of the main threats to gorillas is habitat

# World Gorilla Day:



## *Know your Noses*

loss. Habitat loss is the reality of an ecosystem being drastically changed by human activity such that it can no longer provide the food, water, shelter, and other resources wildlife need to survive.

Mining for the mineral coltan is one thing driving habitat loss for wild gorillas. Coltan is a mineral found inside electronics such as cell phones and small electronic devices.

**Recycle your cell phones!** You can protect gorillas by recycling your old cell phone(s) right here at the Zoo! Recycling cell phones and other small electronic devices protects gorilla habitat by reducing the need to mine for coltan, which can be reused. We accept *any* kind of cell phone to be recycled with Eco-Cell. For each cell phone received, gorillas benefit in two ways: the threat to their habitat is reduced, and a donation is made to support the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International's gorilla conservation and research.

### **It takes a team.... join ours**

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtags #OnlyZooATL and #WorldGorillaDay so that we can see all your great work!

### **Want to know more?**

- For more on World Gorilla Day and gorilla conservation, go to: <https://gorillafund.org/>
- To learn more about cell phone recycling and Gorillas on the Line, visit: <https://zooatlanta.org/conservation-action/gorillas-on-the-line/>
- Visit Zoo Atlanta so see and learn more about western lowland gorillas!

# World Gorilla Day:

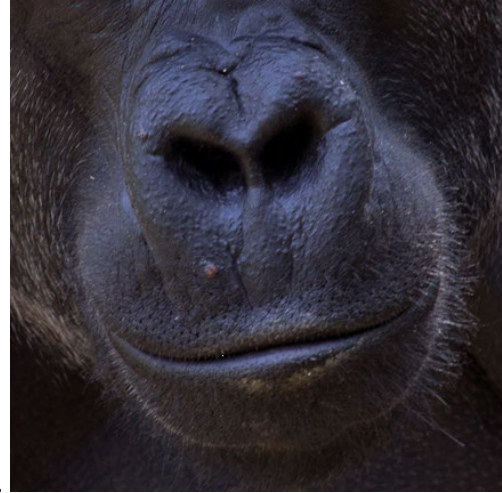
## *Know your Noses*



### Nose Prints:



A.



B.



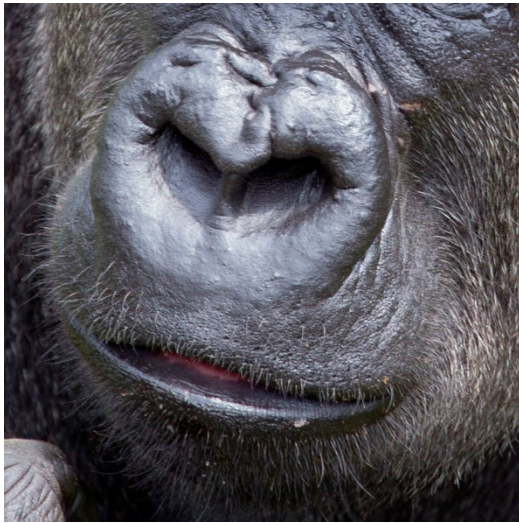
C.



D.

# World Gorilla Day:

## *Know your Noses*



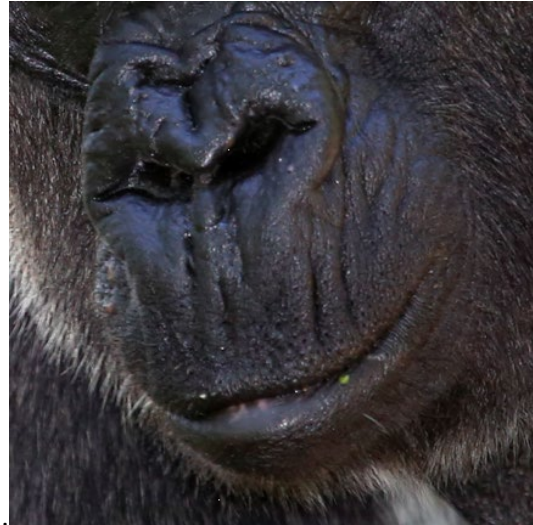
E.



F.



G.



H.

# World Gorilla Day:

*Know your Noses*



## Gorilla Profile Photos:



# World Gorilla Day:

*Know your Noses*



Lulu



Choomba



Kudzoo



Jasiri  
(no longer at ZA)

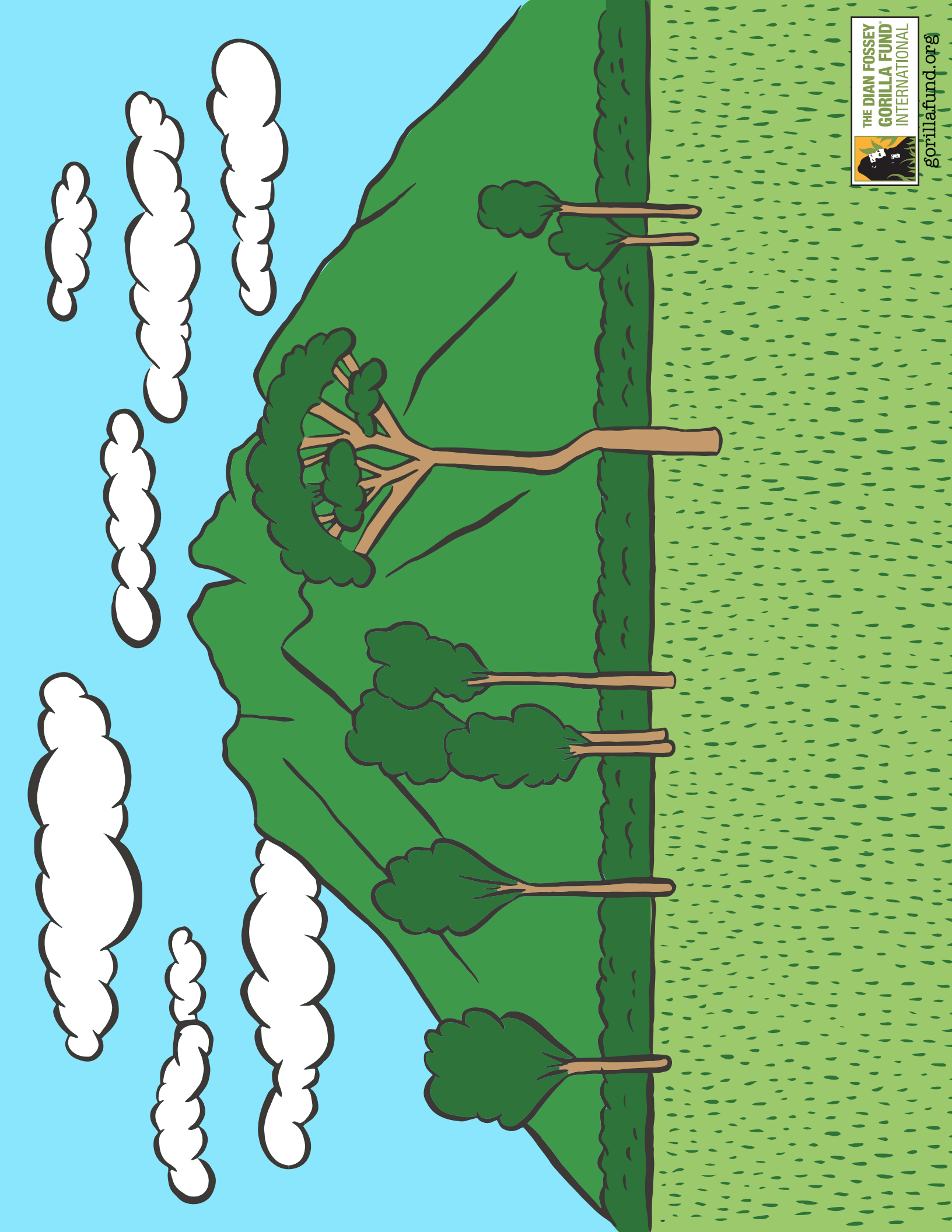


-Dian Fossey was born on January 16th, 1932 in San Francisco, California.  
 -In 1967 She moved to Rwanda and established the Karisoke Research Center to study and protect gorillas.  
 -By imitating the gorillas, Fossey began to gain their trust, and in 1970 a male gorilla she had named Peanuts reached out to touch her hand. Another one of her favorite gorillas was named Digit.  
 -She dedicated her life to studying and protecting gorillas and the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International continues her work to this day!



gorillafund.org





THE DIAN FOSSEY  
GORILLA FUND  
INTERNATIONAL

[gorillafund.org](http://gorillafund.org)



THE DIAN FOSSEY  
GORILLA FUND  
INTERNATIONAL

[gorillafund.org](http://gorillafund.org)

# Lesson 5: The OKC Zoo and You! (K-1st Grade)

## Lesson Summary

**Lesson Duration: 45 minutes**

This lesson will cover the Oklahoma City Zoo's mission of conserving the world's wildlife and wild places including but not limited to African conservation through the Oklahoma Zoological Society and the RoundUp for Conservation Fund. Additionally, the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund is one of the Zoo's legacy conservation partners and provides support for the Rwandan staff who protect and study the gorillas. Legacy partnerships are long-term established partnerships formed between the Zoo and selected conservation organizations. This lesson will also share different ways we can help!

## Required Materials

**Corresponding slides**

**Optional Videos:**

- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB8fyR7MLw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB8fyR7MLw)

**Optional Books:**

- <https://youtu.be/vOg3MAw6zpo> *If I Ran The Zoo* by Dr. Seuss
- <https://youtu.be/1Kl8S61bCn4> *Goodnight Gorilla* by Peggy Rathmann

**Websites:**

- [www.ozsgiving.org](http://www.ozsgiving.org)
- [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)
- [www.okczoo.org](http://www.okczoo.org)

**Optional Activities/Resources (included at the end of lesson 5 in this facilitator's guide):**

- Teacher Resource Slides - learn more about all the teacher resources the OKC Zoo has to offer.
- *If I Ran The Zoo* Activity with STEM Extension - no paper/printer access? No problem! [www.sketchite.com/empty-zoo-cage-coloring-page-animals-for-kids/aSpwaW5pbWcqY29tfG9yaWdpbmFsc3w4OXw3NnxhMnw4OTc2YTJjOTJmMDY0YzI5OTFkNTQwZDk1ZDQxN2Q5MCpqcGc\\_cGludGVyZXNOKmNvbXxwaW58NTU1NDkwOTM1MjczMTk2Mjg0fA/](http://www.sketchite.com/empty-zoo-cage-coloring-page-animals-for-kids/aSpwaW5pbWcqY29tfG9yaWdpbmFsc3w4OXw3NnxhMnw4OTc2YTJjOTJmMDY0YzI5OTFkNTQwZDk1ZDQxN2Q5MCpqcGc_cGludGVyZXNOKmNvbXxwaW58NTU1NDkwOTM1MjczMTk2Mjg0fA/) for students to draw their animals online!
- Conservation Coloring Pages - print and color
- ReadAdventure Coloring Page

## Essential Question

How is the OKC Zoo involved in conservation and how can I help?

## Learning Goal

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

## Lesson Guide

### Wild About The OKC Zoo and You!

A variety of optional books and videos has been added to the first page of Lesson 5 facilitator's guide. These can be used to open the lesson, mid lesson or to close the lesson.

### "Wild About the OKC Zoo and You!" Slides

### Educator Resources Available Through the OKC Zoo

#### Explanation:

The OKC Zoo is home to over 50 endangered species! Continuing to strive to protect species around the world, the Zoo is committed to educating the community on the importance of protecting the world around us. The Zoo is involved in both local and international conservation efforts. Did you know September 24 is WORLD GORILLA DAY? The OKC Zoo celebrates in a big way!

#### Vocabulary:

Conservation  
Legacy Partner  
Coltan

### Wild About the OKC Zoo and You! Slides:

Be sure to check the notes section of each slide for background information, optional websites and a more detailed explanation.

#### Closing

Lesson 5 ends with a student challenge to create their own posters. Several pre-made posters were made for convenience and varying levels.

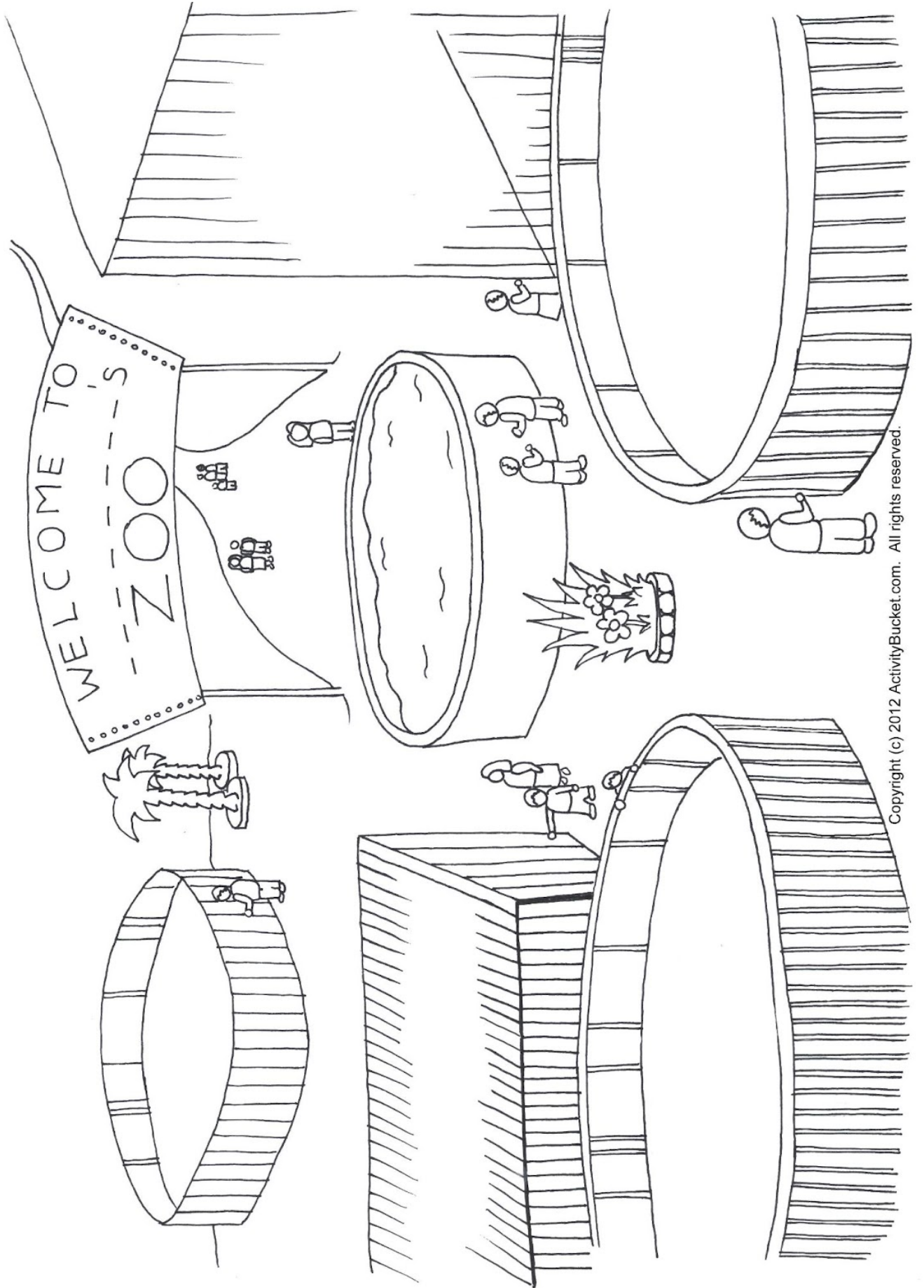
# Create Your Own Zoo Student Activity

## Directions:

- At the beginning of this lesson, read *If I Ran the Zoo* by Dr. Seuss aloud. Allow students to share ideas if they ran or created their own zoo.
- Students will use the zoo coloring page to draw and color the animals and habitats they would have at their zoo.
- Allow students to create their own animals or think about some of the animals they have learned about during this unit.

## STEM Extension:

- Have students use various materials to create and design their own zoo: LEGOs, cardboard, glue, pipe cleaners, cotton balls, etc



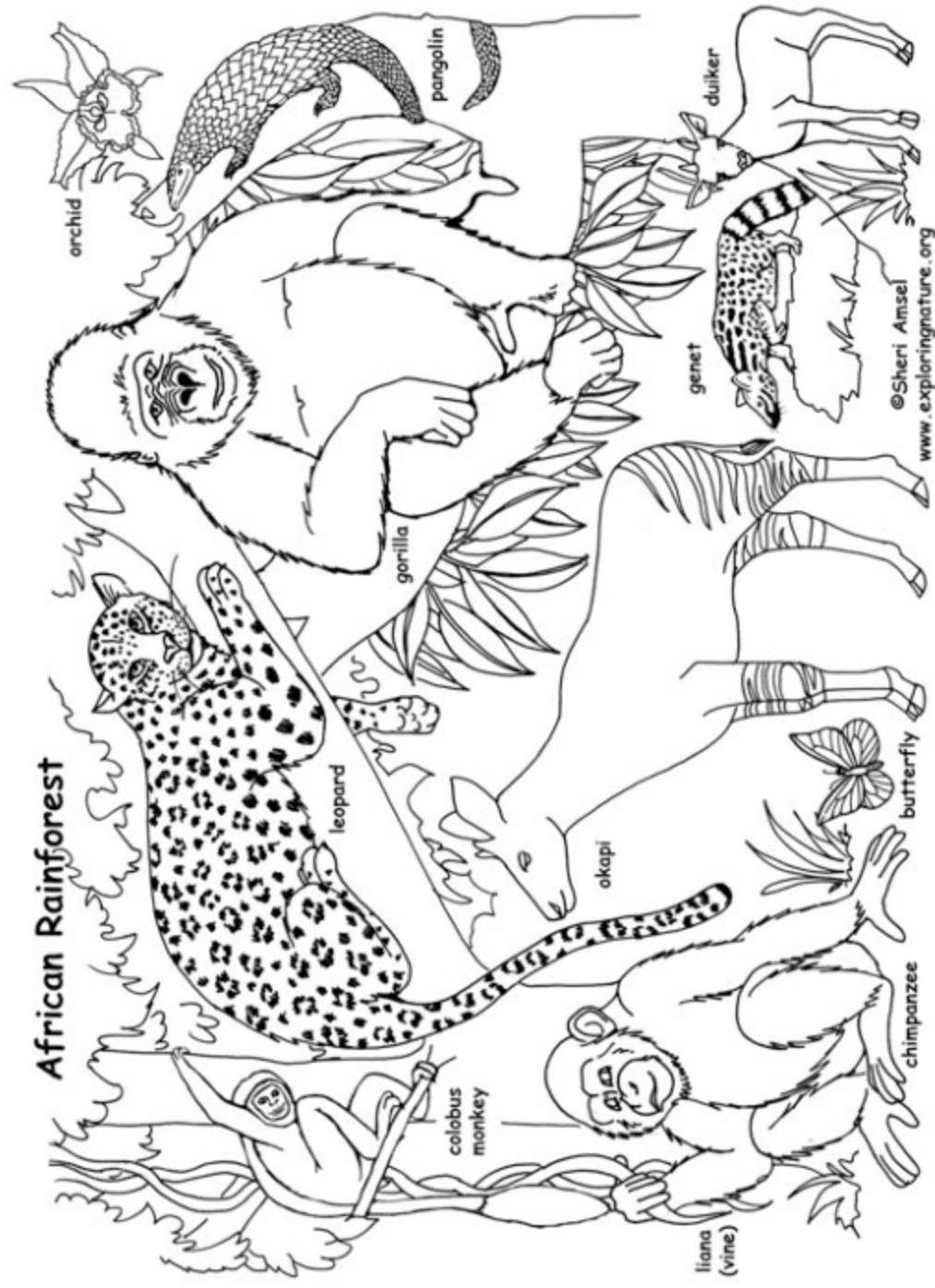
# Save the Gorillas



Helping People.  
Saving Gorillas.



# African Rainforest



orchid

pangolin

duiker

genet

©Sheri Amsel  
www.exploringnature.org

gorilla

leopard

okapi

butterfly

colobus  
monkey

liana  
(vine)

chimpanzee





**Draw yourself hiking  
the Amazon rainforest.**



# Read For Adventure

Brought to you by OKC ZOO OGE

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Capitol Hill Library -	Heavener Public Library	Nora Sparks Warren Public Library	Tryon Public Library
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Chandler Public Library	Hollis Public Library	Oakdale Elementary	Wagoner City Public Library
Chandler-Watts Memorial Library	Hominy Public Library	Okeene Public :ibrary	Warner Public Library
Chelsea Public Library	Hulbert Public Library	Okemah Public Library	Warr Acres Library -
Cherokee City - County	Hydro Public Library	Okmulgee Public	Watonga Public Library
Chickasaw Nation Tribal Library	Idabel Public Library	Olive Warner Library	Waurika Public Library
Chickasha Public Library	Inola Public Library	Patience S. Latting Northwest	Waynoka Public Library
Choctaw County Library	Iowa Tribal Library	Library -	Weatherford Public Library -
Choctaw Library -	Jay C. Byers Memorial Library	Patrick Lynch Public Library	Wellston Community Libraary
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# Read For Adventure

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OKC  zoo **OGIE**



# Gorilla Unit

Supplemental Activities  
Adaptable for Grades Kindergarten-1st



Brought to you by:



OKC  ZOO

# Animal Behavior Ethogram

## Activity Overview

Carefully observing animals is an inquiry-based activity that can be done anywhere, from the local zoo to the schoolyard. This activity asks students to select an animal of their choice and record its behavior over a set period of time. Scientists use ethograms to help them regularly collect this data.

## Materials

- Copies for each student
- Stopwatch or timer
- Pencils and coloring tools
- Animals to view—either live or through video



## Instructions

1. Explain to students that they will be animal behavior scientists in this activity.
2. Find a space to view animals or choose a video of animals. Ask students to choose an animal to observe. More than one student can observe the same animal.
3. Provide individual students with a copy of the data sheets. The first page asks students to identify the weather for the day and also includes the “Animal Behavior Bank.” This bank explains the possible behaviors students will see and matching icons for each behavior.
4. The students’ data sheet shows six (6) total observation rows. You, or another instructor, will serve as the time keeper. Choose a determined amount of time and observation interval. **Recommended:** Three (3) minutes of observation with every 30 seconds counting as one (1) observation.
5. Announce every observation interval so students can record what they see on their data sheet.
6. After observation, the provided extension questions can be used for further exploration. Students may want to create graphs or tables to display their data.

# Ethogram: Observation Data Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Today's weather is:  
(circle or color your choices)



Sunny



Cloudy



Rainy



Windy



Snowy

## Animal Behavior Bank

**Grooming**

Animal is cleaning itself.



**Feeding**

Animal is eating or looking for food.



**Moving**

Animal is moving around its home.



**Resting**

Animal is lying down or staying still.



**Vocalizing**

Animal is making noise.



**Not Visible**

You cannot see the animal.







































# Ethogram: Observation Data Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Choose one (1) animal to watch. Your teacher will keep track of time and let you know when to mark your paper.

Describe your animal: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Observation	What is your animal doing?					
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						



# Ethogram: Extension Questions

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Think about your animal and answer these questions.

**1.) What was your animal doing most of the time?**

---

---

**2.) What items did you see in the animal's habitat?**

---

---

**3.) Did your animal use any of these items? Which ones?**

---

---

**4.) What else would you like to learn about studying animals?**

---

---

# Ethogram: Extension Questions

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Draw your animal in its habitat.





# Gorillas on the Line... Answer the Call!

Join an exciting campaign to help save gorillas in the wild. By collecting old mobile phones for recycling, you can help protect gorilla habitat in Africa. Get started with three easy steps.



**1**

## Answer the call!

Register with your local coordinator listed below. They'll follow up with contest details and tools to help with the campaign.



**2**

## Recycle those phones!

Gather your team and collect as many phones for recycling as possible, February 1-April 30. Then, ship your phones to Eco-Cell by the first Friday in May. We'll send a free shipping label when you register. Eco-Cell will process the phones and tabulate the totals. Contest winners are announced the first week of June.

**3**

## Save gorillas!

Coltan is a mineral found in phones and other small electronics. It is mined from areas where endangered gorillas live. Recycling old mobile phones helps reduce the demand for coltan and protects gorilla habitat in Africa. Gorillas are on the line. Join us to answer the call and help save gorillas in the wild!

### Coordinator:

Name :

Email :

Phone :

# Gorilla Grub

Each animal eats different food. Some animals eat meat and some animals eat plants. Zoo staff work hard to learn each animal's favorite foods.

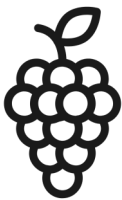
Gorillas are **herbivores**. This means they like to eat plants. Gorillas eat leaves, stems, bark, fruits, and seeds. At Lincoln Park Zoo, zookeepers feed the gorillas leafy greens, vegetables, fruit, and tree branches.



Gorillas eat lots of different food. What's on a gorilla's plate?

## Directions:

1. Color the vegetables green.
2. Color the fruits red.
3. Cross out any food that is unhealthy for a gorilla.



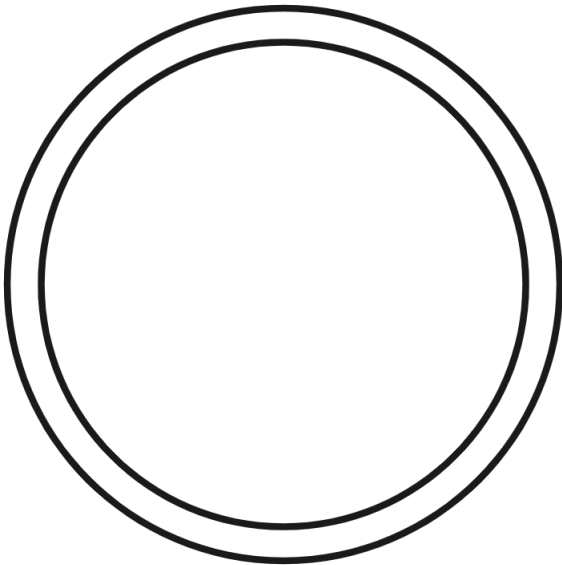
# Gorilla Grub

## Be a Zookeeper!

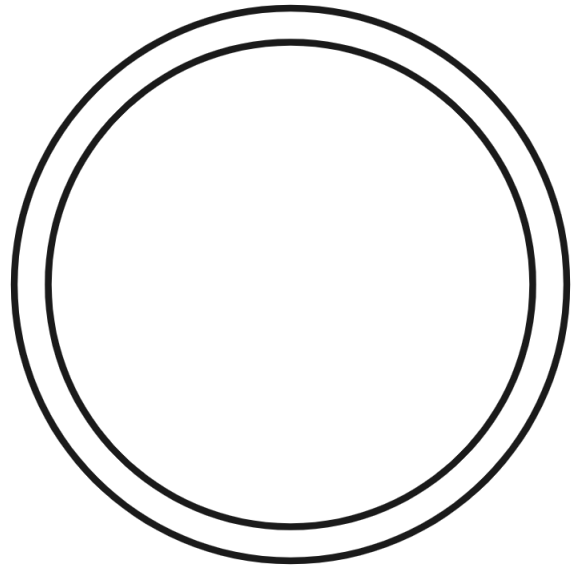
It's your turn to take care of the gorillas at Lincoln Park Zoo.

What will you feed them?

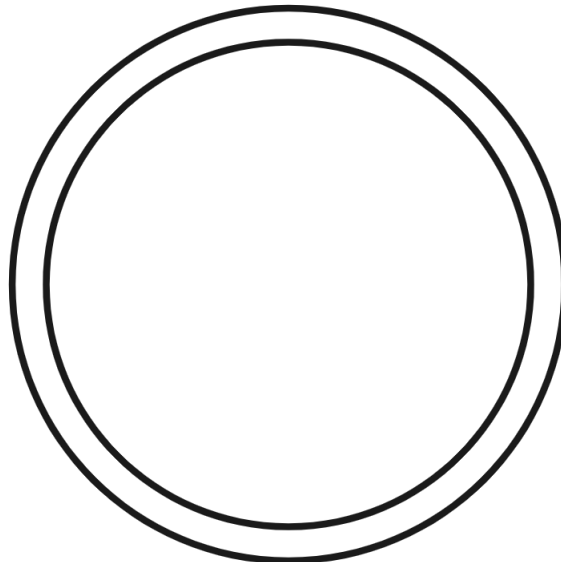
**Directions:** Fill the plates with healthy food for each gorilla.



**Kwan**  
Adult



**Nayembi**  
Toddler



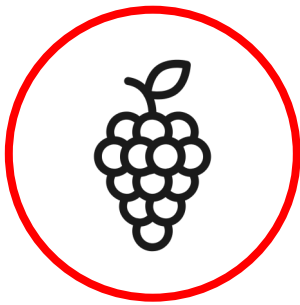
**Mondika**  
Baby

# Gorilla Grub

## Answer Key

### Directions:

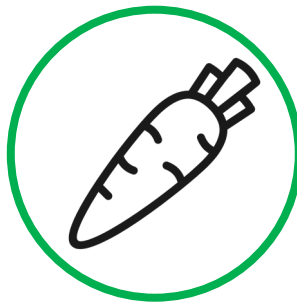
1. Color the vegetables green.
2. Color the fruits red.
3. Cross out any food that is unhealthy for a gorilla.



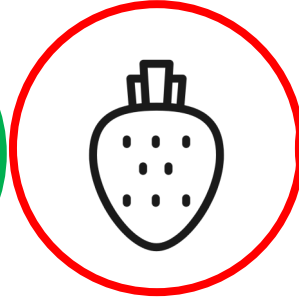
Grapes



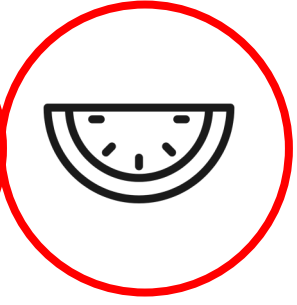
Cake



Carrot



Strawberry



Watermelon



Spinach



Peas



Pizza



Broccoli



French Fries

# How to Draw a Gorilla

by Brooke Robinson

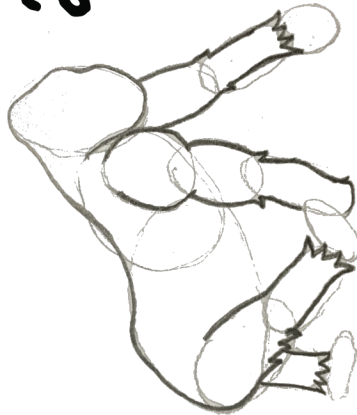


**1.** Sketch 3 circles to create the head and back.

Tip: Make the head circle extra tall and skinny.



**2.** Add circles to create the arms, legs, hands, and feet.



**3.** Draw a dark line from the chin all the way to the edge of the back leg.



**4.** Add in the arms, creating small flares of fur at the joints and wrists.

**5.**

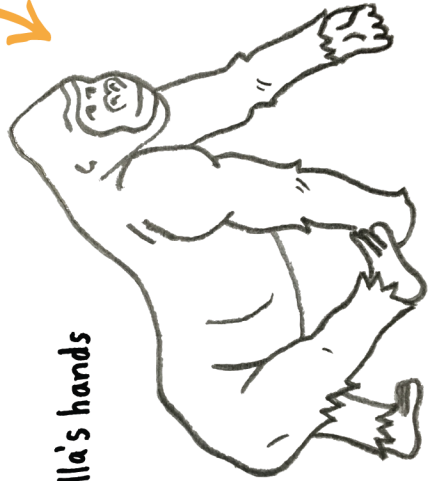
Add in the legs, including the same flares of fur that the arms have.



Tip: Leave a space on the gorilla's right arm for its back foot.

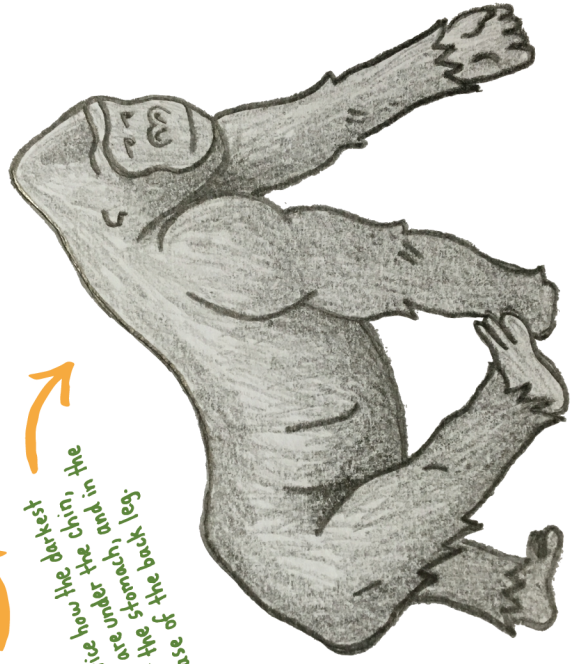
Tip: The gorilla's nostrils and eyes are both shaped like a pair of quotation marks.

Tip: Notice how the darkest crease of the back leg, under the stomach, and in the chin, are under the darkest.



**6.** Draw the gorilla's hands and feet.

**7.** Add in the remaining features, including the facial features and the small fur marks at the knees and elbows.



**8.** Shade in the fur to add depth to the gorilla's body.



THE DIAN FOSSEY  
GORILLA FUND  
INTERNATIONAL



# How Cell Phones Impact Gorillas



Coltan is a mineral used to manufacture cell phones, tablets, and small electronics.<sup>1</sup>

Coltan is mined by hand in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which is also the natural habitat of endangered gorillas.<sup>2</sup>

The deforestation and mining associated with coltan production has impacted and displaced gorillas, moving them closer to extinction.<sup>3</sup>

Recycling and extending the life of electronic devices reduces the demand for coltan mining.<sup>4</sup>

Recycle your phones at cell phone stores and approved locations.



<sup>1</sup> Delawala, Imtiyaz. "What is Coltan?" ABC News. ABC News Network, n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2017.

<sup>2,3</sup> Lovgren, Stefan. "Can Cell-Phone Recycling Help African Gorillas?" National Geographic. National Geographic Society, 20 Jan. 06. Web. 26 Apr. 2017.

<sup>4</sup> "Endangered Species." Cell Phone Recycling. Ecocell, n.d. Web. 26 Apr. 2017.

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







**GORILLAS ARE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED. FEWER THAN 4500 EASTERN GORILLAS REMAIN IN AFRICA.**

## **JOIN US TO SECURE A FUTURE FOR GORILLAS**



**Gorillas are powerful yet shy and intelligent. Eastern gorillas (Grauer's and mountain gorillas) are severely affected by human activity. They are hunted and their habitat is being lost to mining and agriculture.**

**Only 1000 mountain gorillas remain in two populations in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Fewer than 3500 Grauer's gorillas remain in DRC.**

**Our Future for Wildlife program protects eastern gorillas by...**

- **Equipping guards and conducting anti-poaching patrols**
- **Working with communities to protect gorilla habitat**
- **Providing training and professional development**

**We have a responsibility to protect gorillas for future generations. Fewer than 4500 eastern gorillas remain in the world. Join our efforts to protect gorillas from habitat loss and poaching.**

**Visit [FutureForWildlife.org](https://FutureForWildlife.org) to learn more and make a difference.**

# The Zoo's Gorilla Conservation Program

The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International (DFGFI) is dedicated to the conservation and protection of gorillas and their habitats in Africa through research, education, health, training and development initiatives. The Zoo works with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International to secure a future for gorillas.

Dr. Dian Fossey established Karisoke™ Research Center in 1967 launching one of the longest ongoing research and monitoring programs for any species in the world. DFGFI's staff of Rwandan and Congolese trackers, educators and scientists is on the ground every day in Rwanda and Democratic Republic of Congo protecting gorillas against threats from poaching, loss of habitat and disease.

## Training young Rwandan scientists

DFGFI's Memoirs Program, in partnership with the Zoo (Case Western Reserve University) and the University of Rwanda, supports and conducts university student training at Karisoke™ Research Center to develop the next generation of scientists.

- **Zoo staff has trained 30 Rwandan biology students in conservation science through this program since 2014.**



## Protecting Grauer's gorillas in Democratic Republic of Congo

DFGFI is protecting 150 gorillas in the Nkuba-Biruwe Conservation Area using monitoring and protection programs modeled after Karisoke™ Research Center's proven programs. The Zoo is working with DFGFI and local communities to double the number of Grauer's gorillas protected in this region by 2020.

- **DFGFI constructed the first base camp in Nkuba-Biruwe in 2015, creating a permanent forest presence in the area.**



## Increasing conservation knowledge around mountain gorilla habitat in Uganda

The Bwindi Apes Conservation Education Partnership (BACEP), a collaboration between the Zoo, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, and North Carolina Zoo, conduct teacher trainings and other education programs in communities surrounding Bwindi Impenetrable National Park. These activities work to increase conservation knowledge and behaviors in teachers, students, and families living near protected gorilla habitat.

- **BACEP has conducted teacher trainings for ten schools in Ruhija, a village near the edge of Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.**

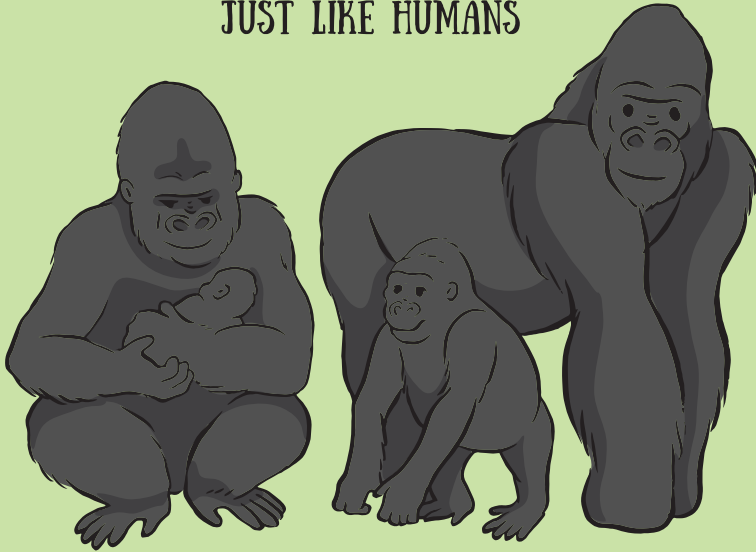


Join our efforts to secure a future for gorillas.

- **Recycle your cell phone and other consumer electronics. Encourage others to do the same.**
- **Visit [FutureForWildlife.org](http://FutureForWildlife.org) to learn more and make a difference.**



## GORILLAS HAVE DIFFERENT LIFE STAGES, JUST LIKE HUMANS



# GORILLA FACT SHEET

- When they are first born, baby gorillas are called infants
- Between the ages of 4-8, gorillas are considered juveniles—they become more and more independent from mom and spend more time with friends, playing, and exploring their environment.
- Before they become mature, adolescent male gorillas are called blackbacks
- Adult male gorillas are called silverbacks, because as they mature the hair on their backs turns a light silver color
- Gorillas are terrestrial animals, which means they spend most of their time on the ground

- They do climb trees, but this is not where they spend the majority of their time
- Gorillas move by knuckle-walking, meaning they walk on their hands and feet with their knuckles bent under their fingers

- Gorillas in the wild can live to be up to 30-40 years old
- Gorillas eat a lot of things, including leaves, bamboo, fruit, bark, stems, and more!
- Gorillas are very peaceful and quiet animals, but when they want to communicate, they do so through grunts and grumbles, or by small changes in body language



## GORILLAS ARE THREATENED BY MANY ISSUES



- Losing their forest home to coltan mining and deforestation
- Accidental snaring and poaching
- Disease transmission between gorillas and humans



## WE CAN HELP GORILLAS BY DOING A NUMBER OF THINGS:

- Help protect gorillas in the wild by supporting the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International
- Recycle electronics to stop coltan mining
- Spreading awareness about gorillas and what they are facing



Adopt a gorilla through the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund! [gorillafund.org/adopt](http://gorillafund.org/adopt)

# ACTIVITY PACKET

Created in Partnership with  
Disney's Animals, Science  
and Environment

SAM ROCKWELL

ANGELINA JOLIE

DANNY DEVITO

HELEN MIRREN

BROOKLYNN PRINCE

RAMON RODRIGUEZ

ARIANA GREENBLATT

CHAKA KHAN

RON FUNCHES

PHILLIPA SOO

MIKE WHITE

AND

BRYAN CRANSTON



Disney  
The One And Only  
IVAN

Disney+

Disney + PIXAR + MARVEL + STAR WARS + NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Start Streaming Aug. 21

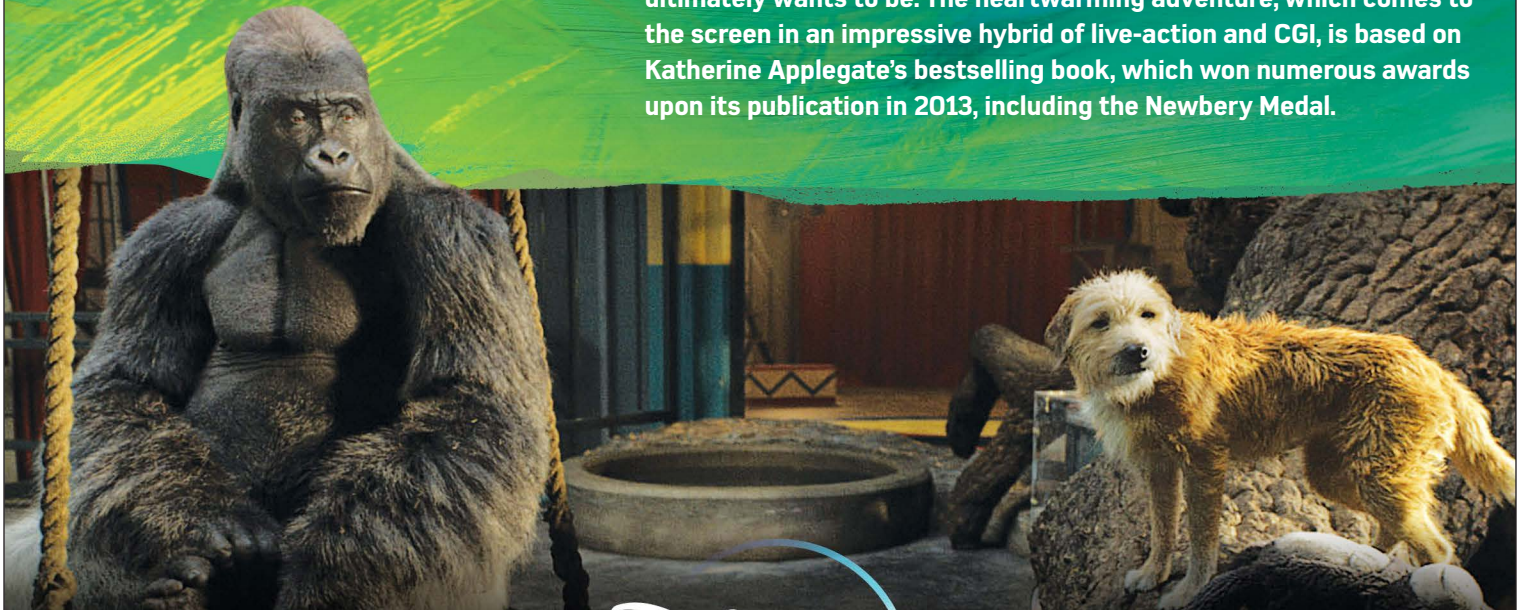
PG  
MILD THEMATIC  
ELEMENTS

© 2020 Disney



Disney  
The One and Only  
**IVAN**

An adaptation of the award-winning book about one very special gorilla, Disney's "The One and Only Ivan" is an unforgettable tale about the beauty of friendship, the power of visualization and the significance of the place one calls home. Ivan is a 400-pound silverback gorilla who shares a communal habitat in a suburban shopping mall with Stella the elephant and Bob the dog. He has few memories of the jungle where he was captured, but when a baby elephant named Ruby arrives, it touches something deep within him. Ruby is recently separated from her family in the wild, which causes him to question his life, where he comes from and where he ultimately wants to be. The heartwarming adventure, which comes to the screen in an impressive hybrid of live-action and CGI, is based on Katherine Applegate's bestselling book, which won numerous awards upon its publication in 2013, including the Newbery Medal.



Disney presents "THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN" AN ALLISON SHEARMUR / JOLIE PAS PRODUCTION  
ARIANA GREENBLATT AND BRYAN CRANSTON ORIGINAL SCORE BY CRAIG ARMSTRONG  
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FLORIAN BALLHAUS, ASC EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS SUE BADEN-POWELL THEA SHARROCK  
BASED UPON THE NOVEL BY KATHERINE APPLIGATE

Disney+

SAM ROCKWELL ANGELINA JOLIE DANNY DeVITO HELEN MIRREN RAMON RODRIGUEZ  
COSTUME DESIGNER JILL TAYLOR EDITOR BARNEY PILLING, ACE PRODUCTION DESIGNER MOLLY HUGHES  
PRODUCED BY ALLISON SHEARMUR, p.g.a. ANGELINA JOLIE BRIGHAM TAYLOR, p.g.a.  
SCREENPLAY BY MIKE WHITE DIRECTED BY THEA SHARROCK

Disney + PIXAR + MARVEL + STAR WARS + NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Start Streaming Aug. 21

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### Acknowledgements

Disney's Animals, Science and Environment would like to take this opportunity to thank the amazing teams that came together to develop "The One and Only Ivan" Activity Packet. It was created with great care, collaboration and the talent and hard work of many incredible individuals. A special thank you to Dr. Mark Penning for his ongoing support in developing engaging educational content that connects families with nature. These materials would not have happened without the diligence and dedication of Kyle Huetter who worked side by side with the filmmakers to help create these compelling activities. Special thanks to Bethany Eriksen and Ashley Dion who authored the unique writing found throughout each page and whose creative thinking and artistry developed games and activities into a world of outdoor exploration. Special thanks to director Thea Sharrock, for creating such an amazing story that inspired the activities found within this packet as well as producers Angelina Jolie, Brigham Taylor and the late Allison Shearmur. Lastly, thank you to Ryan Whalin and Lisa Neglia at The Walt Disney Studios for your help and unwavering support of this project.

**Allison Atkins**  
Education Line of Business Manager  
Disney's Animals, Science  
and Environment

Western Lowland  
Gorilla Spike at  
Disney's Animal  
Kingdom

# INTRODUCING THE WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA

“The One and Only Ivan” tells the heartwarming story of Ivan, a western lowland gorilla. How much do you know about these amazing animals?

Western lowland gorillas are actually one of four subspecies of gorillas in the world and are found in tropical rainforests throughout seven countries in western Africa. Western lowland gorillas can grow very large—standing 5-6 feet tall and weighing up to 400 pounds or more! In fact, gorillas are the world’s largest primate next to humans.

Just like humans, gorillas are social animals and often live in family groups, called troops. A troop typically consists of one adult male called the silverback, several females and their young. An adult male gorilla is called a silverback because the hair on his back turns silver-grey as he gets older. Within a troop, the silverback protects the group,



Western Lowland Gorilla  
Infant Lilly at Disney’s  
Animal Kingdom

keeps the peace and makes decisions about the troop’s movement. The females follow the silverback and care for young gorillas by grooming, feeding and carrying them.

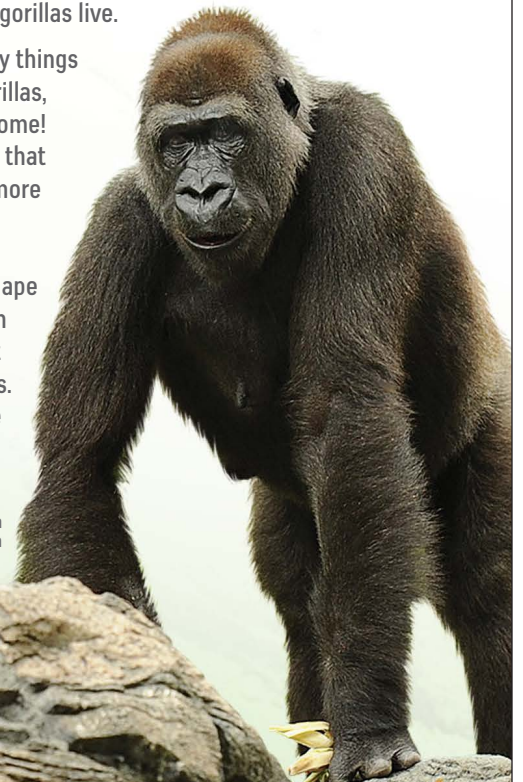
During the day, gorillas spend the majority of their time foraging, or looking for food, and eating. Western lowland gorillas are primarily herbivorous, feeding on plant species, while occasionally eating insects like ants and termites. After a long day of foraging, gorillas build their own nests to sleep on by tucking leaves and branches under and around their bodies. They never use a nest more than once, so they make a new one every time they sleep.

Though western lowland gorillas have the largest wild population of all gorilla subspecies, they are at great risk and considered critically endangered with a decreasing population. One threat is poaching—the illegal hunting of gorillas and other animals for their meat. Another significant threat is habitat loss. Gorilla habitat is currently disappearing due to forests being cleared for logging, agriculture, human settlement and mining. For example, mining for coltan—a mineral used to make electronics like cell phones and computers—disrupts the African forests where gorillas live.



Western Lowland  
Gorilla Zawadi  
at Disney’s  
Animal Kingdom

Luckily, there are many things you can do to help gorillas, even from your own home! Throughout the pages that follow, you can learn more about gorillas, explore research techniques used to support great ape conservation and even pledge to do your part to help protect gorillas. Head to the next page to get started!



Western Lowland Gorilla Kashata  
at Disney’s Animal Kingdom

Disney  
The One and Only  
IVAN

Disney  
The One and Only  
**IVAN**

**WORD BANK**

6 TIMES (R)

CALF (J)

BIG TOES (E)

PUP (B)

PACK (C)

SILVERBACK (A)

TROOP (T)

EARS (D)

40 (L)

20 TIMES (Y)

200 (G)

INFANT (S)

# GET TO KNOW GORILLAS

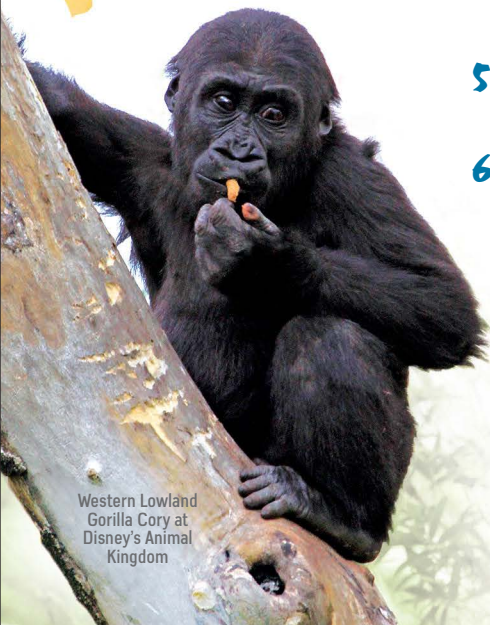
Test your gorilla knowledge with a friend or family member!

**DIRECTIONS:** In the space below, complete each fact about gorillas by choosing a word or phrase from the word bank on the left. Then, use the letters found in parentheses at the end of each chosen word/phrase to unscramble a final word and complete a hidden phrase about gorillas. Note: Not all words/phrases from the word bank will be used in the activity.

- 1 An adult male gorilla is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 The upper body strength of an adult male gorilla is \_\_\_\_\_ more powerful than that of an adult human!
- 3 Western lowland gorillas feed on more than \_\_\_\_\_ plant species.
- 4 In addition to opposable thumbs on their hands, gorillas have opposable \_\_\_\_\_ on their feet, which they can grasp objects with.
- 5 A baby gorilla is called an \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 Gorillas are very social animals and live in groups. A group of gorillas is called a \_\_\_\_\_.



Western Lowland Gorillas at Disney's Animal Kingdom: Zawadi (top), Spike (middle), Kashata and Lilly (bottom)



Western Lowland Gorilla Cory at Disney's Animal Kingdom

## HIDDEN PHRASE:

GORILLAS ARE THE WORLD'S

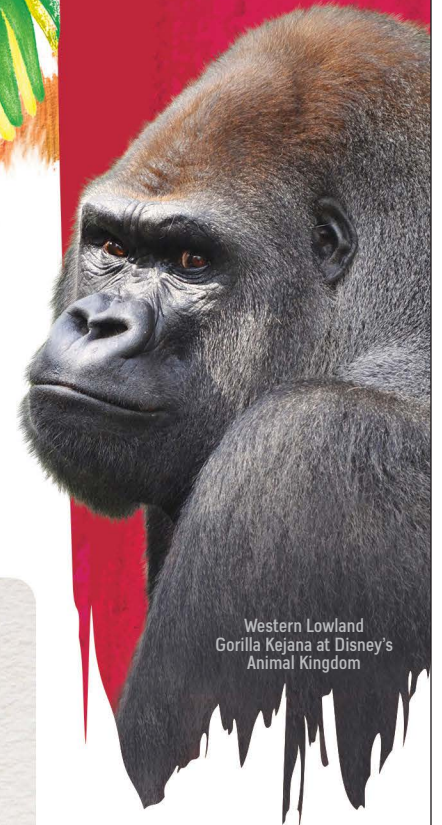
L \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ NON-HUMAN PRIMATES.

Answer Key: 1. silverback, 2. 6 times, 3. 200, 4. big toes, 5. infant, 6. troop. Hidden word: largest



# OBSERVE WILDLIFE

Disney  
The One and Only  
IVAN



Western Lowland  
Gorilla Kejana at Disney's  
Animal Kingdom

Observations are an important way for scientists and conservationists to learn more about animals like gorillas and help protect them. By observing gorilla troops, they can learn more about behaviors and family group dynamics. In addition to direct animal observations, scientists also learn by looking for clues of what animals leave behind. Gorillas leave a number of clues behind including footprints, nests and dung.

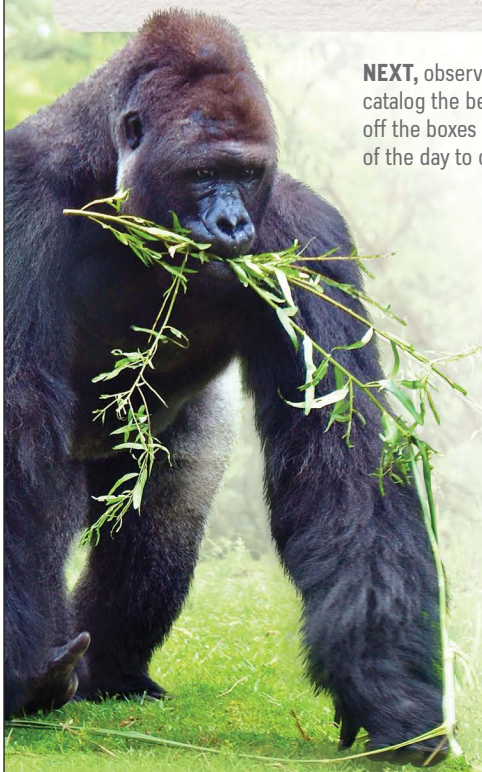
**DIRECTIONS:** Head outdoors and explore your own backyard or nearby nature spot. First, look for clues to learn what animals live nearby. Record a few clues by writing or drawing in the space provided.

## WILDLIFE CLUES

Example:



Footprints



**NEXT**, observe a pet or animal and fill out the ethogram provided. An ethogram is used by scientists and conservationists to catalog the behaviors of animals they observe throughout the day. Monitor the animal for 10 minutes. During this time, check off the boxes of the behaviors you see (Eat, Walk, Rest) in the "Observation 1" row. Repeat this process during different times of the day to complete "Observation 2 & 3" rows.

## ETHOGRAM

	WALK	REST	EAT
RESEARCHER'S NAME _____	OBSERVATION 1: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ANIMAL OBSERVED _____	OBSERVATION 2: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	OBSERVATION 3: <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Did you witness the animal eat?  
If so, what was it eating? \_\_\_\_\_

Where did it walk to? \_\_\_\_\_

How did it rest? \_\_\_\_\_

**NOW**, take these findings into consideration to improve the life of the animal you observed.

What actions can you take to protect wild habitats and animals near where you live?  
\_\_\_\_\_

Disney  
The One and Only  
**IVAN**



The Disney Conservation Fund is committed to saving wildlife, including gorillas, and building a global community inspired to protect the magic of nature together. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, funding from the Disney Conservation Fund helped open the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center (GRACE), the world's only sanctuary for orphaned and critically endangered Grauer's gorillas. GRACE's all-Congolese team are experts at helping rescued baby gorillas. When ready, they join an adoptive gorilla family, and live safely and happily in large forest enclosures. Disney Conservation continues to provide resources and share expertise with staff at GRACE.

For more information about Disney's commitment to conservation, visit: [www.disney.com/conservation](http://www.disney.com/conservation)

# HELP SAVE GORILLAS

Gorillas face many threats in the wild including habitat loss, disease and poaching, but luckily there are many ways to help gorillas. Here are some of the ways you can help from home!

**DIRECTIONS:** Out of the options listed below, choose an action you will take to help save gorillas. Write it in the pledge box. Then, sign your pledge by making a handprint! Dip just the palm of your hand in non-toxic, washable paint or ink and make a handprint on top of the gorilla footprint provided. Note the similarities and differences between your print and the print of a gorilla. Be sure to check with an adult before using paint or ink.

## MY PLEDGE

ACTIONS YOU CAN TAKE TO HELP GORILLAS:

### LEARN MORE

Learn more about gorillas and the threats they face in the wild and spread the word to friends and family members about these issues.

### RECYCLE

Recycle old electronics such as cell phones, computers and Mp3 players to reduce the need for additional mining in gorilla habitats.

### SHOP RESPONSIBLY

Choose sustainable and forest friendly paper and wood products. When buying products, look for companies that engage in sustainable foresting practices.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL HELP GORILLAS BY...

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Western Lowland Gorillas Kashata and Lilly at Disney's Animal Kingdom



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