

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## The Life Cycle of a Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees have an interesting life cycle that begins at birth and continues through several stages until adulthood. A baby chimpanzee, called an infant, is born after a pregnancy lasting about eight months. At birth, an infant weighs about four pounds and relies completely on its mother for care. The mother carries

her baby and nurses it with milk for the first few months of life.

As the infant grows, it enters the juvenile stage around the age of three. During this time, young chimpanzees begin exploring their surroundings while staying close to their mothers. They learn important skills such as climbing, finding food, and using tools by watching adults in their group.

By the age of six or seven, a chimpanzee reaches adolescence. Adolescent chimpanzees become more independent but still rely on their mothers for support and guidance. They begin to form friendships with other young chimpanzees and continue practicing the skills they have learned.

Adulthood begins around the age of 12 to 15. Adult chimpanzees are fully grown and take on different roles within their community. Males often compete for leadership positions, while females may care for young chimpanzees and help teach them how to survive. Chimpanzees can live for about 40 to 50 years in the wild and sometimes even longer in protected environments like zoos.

The life cycle of a chimpanzee is filled with learning and social connections. These amazing animals continue to grow and adapt throughout their lives, making them one of the most fascinating species in the animal kingdom.