

Name _____

Chimpanzee Challenges



Chimpanzees face many threats in the wild. Some of their natural predators include leopards and large snakes. These animals may try to catch young or weaker chimpanzees when they are vulnerable. However, chimpanzees often stay in groups to help protect each other from such dangers.

Besides animal predators, chimpanzees face serious risks from humans. Deforestation is a major problem, as people cut down forests for farming and construction. This destroys the chimpanzees' homes and reduces their food supply. Poaching, or illegal hunting, is another danger. Some people hunt chimpanzees for meat or to capture them for the pet trade.

Chimpanzees also deal with health challenges. They can catch diseases like Ebola and respiratory infections. Parasites, such as ticks and worms, can weaken their bodies. Despite these risks, chimpanzees have ways to stay healthy. They groom each other to remove parasites and often eat certain plants believed to help fight illness.

To protect themselves, chimpanzees rely on their strong social groups. They warn each other with loud calls when a predator is near and work together to stay safe. By living in close-knit communities, chimpanzees increase their chances of survival despite the threats they face.