

Name _____

Chimpanzee Movement: Swing, Climb, and Walk



Chimpanzees are fascinating animals known for their unique ways of moving. Unlike some animals, they cannot fly or swim very well, but they are excellent climbers and walkers. Their strong arms and flexible shoulders help them move skillfully through their forest homes.

Chimpanzees often use a method called brachiation. Brachiation means swinging from branch to branch using only their arms. Their long arms and strong muscles make them experts at this type of movement, which helps them travel quickly through trees while searching for food.

On the ground, chimpanzees use a special way of walking called knuckle-walking. They walk on all fours with their hands curled into fists, using their knuckles to support their weight. This method helps them balance better while moving on land. Although they usually walk on all fours, chimpanzees can also walk short distances on two legs when needed, such as when carrying food.

Chimpanzees are quite fast and efficient movers. They can climb tall trees with ease, using their hands and feet to grip branches. They often combine climbing and brachiation when exploring their surroundings or escaping danger.

In addition to climbing and walking, chimpanzees also use special techniques for movement. When moving through dense areas, they may use their hands to push branches aside. They can also jump between trees when branches are close enough, showing their impressive agility.

Chimpanzees' movement abilities help them stay safe from predators, find food, and stay connected with their group. Their natural skills make them one of the most impressive movers in the animal kingdom.