

Name _____



The Amazing World of Gorillas

Gorillas are large, powerful animals that live in the forests of Africa. They are the biggest primates in the world, which means they belong to the same family of animals as monkeys and humans. Gorillas are known for their strength, intelligence, and gentle nature.

Gorillas have thick, dark fur that covers most of their bodies. Their faces, hands, and feet do not have fur. Male gorillas, called silverbacks, have a patch of silver or gray hair on their backs as they grow older. This silver patch helps identify them as leaders of their groups, called troops. Troops are made up of several females, their young, and the silverback, who protects and guides them.

Gorillas mostly eat plants. They enjoy leaves, fruits, stems, and bamboo. They can eat up to 40 pounds of food every day! Sometimes, they may eat small insects, but plants make up most of their diet. Gorillas have strong jaws and teeth that help them chew tough plants.

These gentle giants are very intelligent. They can use tools, such as sticks, to measure water depth or gather ants to eat. Some gorillas in zoos have even learned sign language to communicate with people! Gorillas also express their feelings using body language and sounds like grunts, hoots, and chest beating.

Gorillas are endangered, which means there are not many left in the wild. People cutting down forests and hunting have made it hard for them to survive. Many groups work hard to protect gorillas and their homes. Sanctuaries and national parks help keep them safe.

Gorillas are fascinating animals that share many qualities with humans. They care for their families, solve problems, and live in close communities. Protecting these amazing creatures helps keep the balance of nature healthy for everyone.

