

Name _____

The Gorilla's Home: Forest Giants



Gorillas live in the lush forests of Africa. They can be found in two main regions: the dense rainforests of Central Africa and the mountainous forests in East Africa. The two types of gorillas are western gorillas and eastern gorillas, which are further divided into subspecies like the mountain gorilla and the lowland gorilla.

Gorillas prefer thick forests filled with plenty of plants to eat. They need areas with lots of green vegetation because they are herbivores, meaning they only eat plants. Their diet includes leaves, fruits, stems, and bamboo shoots. A gorilla can eat up to 40 pounds of food each day!

Mountain gorillas live at high altitudes in cooler forests. These forests have thick fog and lots of moss. The mountain gorillas' thick fur helps keep them warm in this chilly environment. Lowland gorillas, on the other hand, live in warmer, lower areas with thick rainforests and wide open spaces.

Gorillas make their homes by building nests out of leaves and branches. They create these nests on the ground or in trees, though most often they stay on the ground because of their size and weight. Gorillas live in groups called troops. A troop is led by a male silverback, named for the silver fur on his back. He protects the group and helps find food.

These amazing animals are found only in Africa, specifically in countries like Rwanda, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, and Cameroon. Their habitats are threatened by deforestation and human activity, making it important to protect their homes.