

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## How Gorillas Communicate

Gorillas are highly intelligent animals that use many forms of communication to express themselves and interact with each other. These gentle giants mainly use sounds, gestures, and body language to share information with their family groups, called troops.

Gorillas make a variety of sounds to communicate. They grunt, hoot, and roar to express different emotions and signals. For example, a mother gorilla might make soft grunts to reassure her baby, while a silverback gorilla might let out a loud roar to warn others of danger.

In addition to sounds, gorillas use gestures and body movements to communicate. Chest beating is one of the most famous gestures. When a silverback beats its chest, it can signal strength or a warning to other gorillas. Young gorillas often beat their chests during playtime too, imitating the adults.

Facial expressions also play a role in gorilla communication. A relaxed, open face often shows calmness, while a tightened face with bared teeth can signal fear or aggression.

Interestingly, gorillas have even been taught sign language by researchers. Koko, a famous gorilla, learned over 1,000 signs to express her feelings and needs. This shows how capable gorillas are of complex communication.

Gorillas rely on their communication to maintain peace within their troops and care for one another. This rich system of sounds, gestures, and expressions helps keep their social groups strong and united.