

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Role of Gorillas in the Ecosystem



Gorillas play a very important role in their ecosystem. These gentle giants live in the dense forests of Africa, where they help maintain the balance of nature. Gorillas are herbivores, meaning they eat mostly plants, such as leaves, stems, fruits, and bamboo shoots.

One of the most important ways gorillas contribute to their environment is by spreading seeds. As gorillas move through the forest eating fruits, they often drop seeds in different areas. These seeds grow into new plants and trees, which helps the forest stay healthy and full of life.

Gorillas also help control plant growth. By eating certain plants, they prevent any one species from taking over the forest. This balance keeps the ecosystem healthy and allows many types of plants and animals to thrive together.

Gorillas play a key role in the food chain too. Although they do not have natural predators as adults, young gorillas can sometimes be prey for large cats like leopards. However, gorillas' presence helps support the entire food web by maintaining a balanced forest where all species can find food and shelter.

By keeping the forests healthy, gorillas help other animals as well. Birds, insects, and small mammals all benefit from the diverse plant life supported by gorilla seed dispersal. This biodiversity helps keep the entire ecosystem strong and balanced.

Unfortunately, gorillas face threats from deforestation and poaching, which harm their environment. Protecting gorillas is important for the health of the entire ecosystem, as they play a key role in keeping their habitats thriving.