

Name _____



How Do Gorillas Move?

Gorillas are large, powerful animals that move in interesting ways. They do not fly or swim but are excellent climbers and walkers. Gorillas move mostly on all fours using a style called knuckle-walking. This means they use the knuckles of their hands to support their weight while walking. Their arms are longer than their legs, which helps them balance while moving this way.

Gorillas are very strong and can move quickly despite their size. They can run up to 20 miles per hour when needed, but they usually prefer a slower, steady pace. While they don't swim like some animals, they can wade in shallow water when necessary. However, gorillas avoid deep water because they are not natural swimmers.

Climbing is another important way gorillas move. They can climb trees to gather food like leaves and fruit. Young gorillas climb more often than adults because they are lighter and more agile. Adult gorillas climb trees less often but can still do so when they need to reach food or feel threatened.

Gorillas also use their movement for communication. A silverback, the leader of a group, might beat his chest or stand tall to show strength and warn others to stay away. Young gorillas often play by chasing and climbing, which helps them build strength and learn important skills.

Gorillas' unique way of moving helps them survive in the wild. Their strength, speed, and climbing ability make them well-suited for life in the forests of Africa.