

# Jane Goodall Institute

## COMMUNICATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

## HOMEWORK-HELP RESOURCES

Below are questions with written responses provided by Dr. Jane Goodall herself.

### Q&A

What does Gombe represent to you? What is your fondest memory of Gombe?

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*“The best days of my life were when I was out in the rainforest, alone with the chimpanzees, being part of the dim peaceful world where I could sense the interconnectedness of life, where each species, no matter how small, played a part in the magnificent tapestry of life. And sitting by a magnificent waterfall, plunging 80 feet to the rocky stream bed, being gently stroked by the wind caused by the falling water. The most spiritual place in Gombe. And how well I remember when the dominant old female, Flo, finally accepted me to the point that she allowed her 4-month-old infant, Flint, to approach with wide eyes full of wonder, reach out and touch me.” —Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace*

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Why did anthropologist, Louis Leakey, who sent you to Gombe to monitor chimp behavior, choose you for that daunting task?

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*“Louis Leakey was impressed by how much I knew about African animals even though I had only just arrived from England when I met him. But I had read every book about them I could find and spent hours in the Natural History Museum in London. Leakey first invited me to join him, his wife and one other young girl for his annual 3 months at Olduvai Gorge, searching for the fossils of the Stone Age hominids that he was convinced had once lived there (subsequently he was proved right). And he said I reacted just right when, on one occasion, I got very close to a rhino, and on another was followed some distance by a young male lion. He also believed that women would make better observers in the field, be more patient.” —Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace*

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How did you start to observe chimpanzees? How has that influenced the way you look at nature?

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*“Throughout my childhood I had spent hours watching the animals around our home – birds, squirrels, an occasional fox. I knew how important it was to be quiet, make no sudden movements, and have a lot of patience. When I finally got to Gombe I spent the first months watching the chimpanzees through binoculars – they ran off if I got too close. But because I wore the same-coloured clothes each day, and did not harm them, they eventually lost their fear, and I was able to sit quietly nearby. So, I got to know them as individuals and gradually learn more about their fascinating social behaviour.” —Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace*

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How did you gain their trust? How do you see them today compared to the first day you met them?

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*“When I first saw them, they were unknown beings living in their own forest home. Gradually they allowed me into their world, and I was able to understand ever more of their complex behaviour and social structure. Today we are observing the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the individuals I knew so well in the 60s and 70s.” —Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace*

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## RELEVANT FAQ

These are questions with answers provided by our JGI team.

**Does Dr. Goodall communicate with chimpanzees?**

Jane mostly observes the chimpanzees. But sometimes she and the other scientists have to communicate a message -- for example, that they are not threats. They will do this by avoiding direct eye contact with the chimpanzees and having a submissive posture (such as a crouch).

**Is David Greybeard Dr. Goodall's favorite chimpanzee?**

David Greybeard is among Dr. Jane's favorite chimpanzees. He was the first chimpanzee to trust Dr. Jane enough to approach her. He was also one of the chimpanzees Jane first observed making and using a tool to "fish" for termites.

## [FAQ VIDEOS WITH DR. GOODALL \(LINK\)](#)

## [ALL CHIMPANZEE RELATED VIDEOS ON JGI'S YOUTUBE CHANNEL \(LINK\)](#)

### CHIMPANZEE FACTS

**Wild chimpanzees only live in Africa.**

**Humans and chimpanzees share 95 to 98 percent of the same DNA**

Biologically, chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than they are to gorillas.

**Chimpanzees and other species, including some types of birds, make and use tools**

For a long time, scientists thought human beings were the only ones who made tools.

**Chimpanzees can catch or be infected with human diseases**

**Chimpanzees in the wild rarely live longer than 50 years**

Captive chimps can live more than 60 years.

**Chimpanzees sometimes hunt and eat small mammals such as bushbuck or monkeys**

They also eat fruits, nuts, seeds, blossoms, leaves, and many kinds of insects.

**Chimpanzees have a wide variety of tastes and are now able to live in a variety of habitats, unlike gorillas and orangutans who have narrower diets**

**Different chimpanzee groups use tools in different ways**

Chimpanzees of the Tai Forest in Cote d'Ivoire crack open nuts with rocks, for example, while the Gombe chimps have never been seen to do this.

**One of the chimpanzee calls is the "pant-hoot"**

Each individual has his or her own distinctive pant-hoot, so that the chimp can be identified with precision.

**Chimpanzees laugh when they play**

**Chimps groom each other**

Grooming helps relations within the community and calms nervous or tense chimps.

**When chimpanzees are angry or frightened their hair stands-on-end**

**Male chimpanzees show their power in "displays"**

Their hair stands on end so they look bigger, they scream, stamp their feet, and go on a tear, dragging branches, or hurling rocks. This may scare other chimpanzees and keep them from picking a fight.

**Mothers and dependent young (up to age seven or so) are always together**

**Chimpanzees communicate much like humans do by kissing, embracing, patting on the back, touching hands, tickling**

**When a mother dies, her orphaned offspring may be unable to survive**

But older sibling often adopt their orphaned brothers or sisters, and occasionally, infants are adopted by chimps not related to them.

**Infant chimpanzees have a white tail tuft that disappears after their childhood**

**Chimpanzees walk on all fours and have longer arms than legs**

They are called “knuckle walkers” because they use their knuckles for support.

**Like humans, chimps have opposable thumbs and opposable big toes which allows them to grip things with their feet**

**At Gombe National Park, site of Jane Goodall’s research, adult males weigh between 90 and 115 pounds**

They are about 4 feet tall when standing upright. Females are slightly smaller. (Chimpanzees in West Africa and those in captivity may be larger.)

**Chimpanzees are not meant to be pets**

A full-grown chimpanzee has five or six times the strength of a human being.

**There are probably fewer than 150,000 chimpanzees remaining in the wild**

**Chimps can be found in about 21 African countries, mostly in central Africa**

**Most chimps live in rainforest areas on what used to be the equatorial forest “belt”**

Sadly, the rainforests in Africa are being cut down, leaving only patches of forest where the belt once stretched continuously.

**Another great threat to the continued existence of wild chimpanzees is commercial hunting for meat**

**All great apes are endangered**