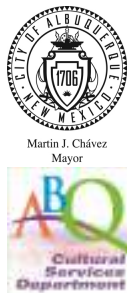
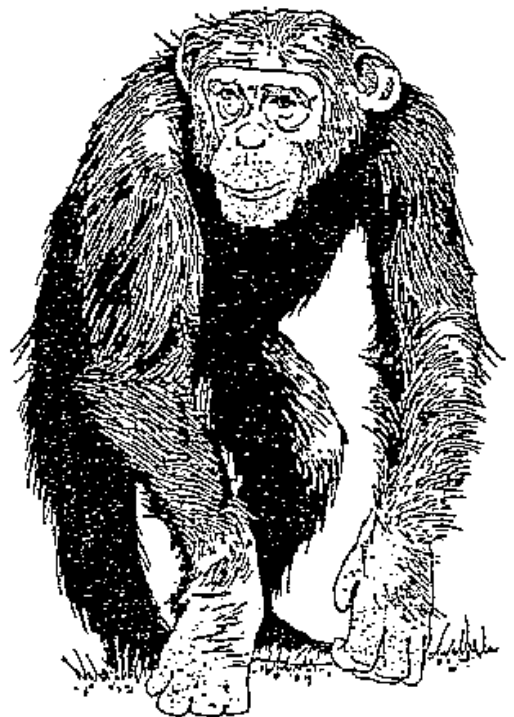


# APE AWARENESS WEEK

At the Rio Grande Zoo

Teacher Resource Guide



# Ape Awareness



Orangutans, chimpanzees and gorillas face – from habitat loss and destruction to poaching – animals are listed as endangered species. **can help!** Find out how by visiting the Rio Grande Zoo during annual Ape Awareness Week. You'll learn about conservation underway and discover the fascinating natural world of primates. On Thursday and Friday, visitors can bring enrichment items to be given to the zoo's apes.

*This guide has been created for teachers whose students will be visiting the Zoo during Ape Awareness Week, and it includes suggested activities to enhance your field trip while at the Zoo as well as before and after your trip.*

For more information about this special week, please call Jo Pelhan, Zoo Education Coordinator, at (505) 764-6247.

## **Primates at the Rio Grande Zoo**

There are approximately 250-300 species of living primates, about one third of which are found in the tropical regions of South and Central America, while the other two thirds are found in Africa and southern Asia. New species

of primates are being discovered all the time. The Rio Grande Zoo has 12 species of primates on exhibit.

**Great Apes**

Western Lowland Gorilla  
Orangutan  
Chimpanzee

**Lesser Ape**

Siamang Gibbon

**Monkeys**

Golden Lion Tamarin  
Cotton-Top Tamarin  
Bengal Slow Loris  
Pygmy Slow Loris  
DeBrazza's Monkey  
Black Howler Monkey  
Spider Monkey  
Wolf's Guenon

# Ape vs. Monkey

## *Is There a Difference?*

Yes, there are many differences between monkeys and apes. While there are only a small number of apes, there are hundreds of monkeys around the world.

	Ape	Monkey
<b>Size</b>	Large (1 foot to 6.5 feet)	Small (0.5 foot to 3.3 feet)
<b>Tail</b>	No	Yes
<b>Opposable Thumbs</b>	Yes	Sometimes
<b>Brain Size</b>	Large	Small
<b>Diet</b>	Mostly omnivorous diet consisting of fruits, grass seeds, small invertebrates.	Diet differs for all species but generally includes, fruits, leaves, insects, spiders etc.
<b>Locomotion</b>	Have very flexible arms that enable them to swing from branches and can also move on two feet (depending on the species)	Most cannot swing from branches and move on four feet; depending on the species, tail may be prehensile and acts like a fifth arm.
<b>Range</b>	Native to Africa and Asia	Native to Africa, Asia, Central and South America
<b>Habitat</b>	Terrestrial, Semi-Terrestrial	Arboreal, Semi-Terrestrial



**Chimpanzee**



**Siamang Gibbon**



**Howler Monkey**



**Orangutan**



**Golden Lion Tamarin**



**Gorilla**

# **WESTERN LOWLAND GORILLA**

*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*

The Western Lowland Gorilla lives in equatorial Africa. Their habitat is lowland tropical rain forests or bamboo forests. The gorilla's arm spread is up to 8' . Males can weight between 300-600lbs. Females are smaller. They are the largest primate. Gorillas are shy, generally peaceful and can stand upright. They walk on their knuckles. Gorillas usually sleep in nests on the ground and sometimes in trees. They get water from plants; live in bands with up to 30 members and are led by a dominant male or silverback. . The sliverback male develops at 11-13 years old. Silverback males will beat their chest loudly when upset and softly when they are being playful. Their lifespan is 50 years. Gorilla females learn from other experienced mothers about raising their young. Their gestation is 9 months and the young are weaned at 2 years. Gorillas eat leaves, shoots, and stems, with small amounts of wood, roots, flowers fruits and grubs.

Gorillas are listed as Endangered, CITES 1

# **ORANGUTAN**

*Pongo pygmaeus*

Orangutans live on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Their habitat includes swamps and other wooded areas of these islands. The characteristics of the orangutan include a head and body length between 4 and 5 feet. When the animal is erect, the arms reach to its ankles and have a span of up to 7 feet. The coat is a dark reddish brown and cheek pads are present in adult males. Cheek pads with thick hair and a pronounceable beard characterize males from Sumatra. Males from Borneo have little or no facial hair but sometimes have a short and scruffy beard.

Orangutans are arboreal and diurnal and, like chimps, orangutans use vegetation to construct a nest in a tree for sleeping in at night. Orangutans usually build a new nest every day. Orangutans also use large leaves as umbrellas and have been found to use sticks for digging and scratching.

The gestation period is about 245 days and a single young is born. Twins are rare but not unheard of. The young will cling to the underside of the mother for about one year. They reach sexual maturity at around 7 years. The oldest orangutan in captivity lived to be 59 years old. Their diet is mainly fruit and includes a large proportion of wild figs.

# **CHIMPANZEE**

*Pan troglodytes*

Chimps are found in the tropical rainforests of central Africa and can even be found in mountain forests up to 9800 feet. Chimps spend most of the day in the trees, but most traveling is done on the ground. Each chimp, except for infants, builds a private nest in a tree to sleep in. Chimps are one of the very few animals in the world that make and use tools. Chimps live in fairly large and flexible “communities” that share a home range. There are subgroups within the community, and it is very rare for all members to come together at one time. Grooming is a crucial factor in maintaining social connections.

Both males and females have numerous mates, but occasionally, a male and female will enter a short-term relationship and the male will stop other low ranking males from mating with the female. Sometimes a pair will leave the community for up to three months to mate exclusively with each other. Gestation is about 230 days. There is usually one baby and for the first three months the baby is cradled by its mother. An infant will cling to the mother until it reaches six months of age; after that it rides on its mother’s back. Young chimps are weaned at about 3 ½ to 4 ½ years, but may remain dependent of the mother for longer and follow her for up to ten years.

Chimps eat fruits, seeds, blossoms, leaves, bark resin, honey, and meat. They are endangered due to habitat loss and the bush meat trade.

# **SIAMANG GIBBON**

*Hylobates syndacylus*

Siamangs are found in the evergreen rainforests of Malaysia and Sumatra. They are the largest of the gibbons and have an arm spread of up to 5 feet. From head to toe they can grow up to 3 feet. They lack a tail like the greater apes but are considered lesser apes. They have black fur all over their body and in some cases a visible throat sac, which inflates when howling. They are arboreal and diurnal.

Siamangs have a whooping call, which is territorial. Their call can be heard miles away. They are brachiators and can cover up to 9' in a single movement and can leap 18'. They can be solitary or live in small groups. They live 20–25 years.

Siamangs are monogamous. Their gestation is 230-235 days. The baby will cling to the mother for about six months. After the baby is a year old the father will also tend to the young. Siamangs eat fruit, leaves, insects, eggs and birds.

Their status is Endangered, CITES 1



# Great Ape Observation

Scientists who study animal behavior are called ethologists. They use a data sheet called an ethogram to record the animal behavior they observe.

Choose one ape at the Zoo to observe for 5 minutes. Every thirty seconds, record that animal's (and only that animal's) behavior. If the animal goes to a place where you cannot see it, just record it as "out of view." Don't switch to a different individual animal during your observation period.

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_

Time of first observation: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

Time	Behavior Observed
30 sec.	
1 min.	
1 min. 30 sec.	
2 min.	
2 min. 30 sec.	
3 min.	
3 min. 30 sec.	
4 min.	
4 min. 30 sec.	
5 min.	

# Gorilla Tactics



Gorillas are different sizes. How many of each do you see?

What are the gorillas doing? Circle each one you see.

