

Gorillas



Gorillas are mammals and the largest primates in the world. They live near the equator in Africa. They mostly live in rainforests.

What do they eat?

Gorillas mainly eat plants such as fruit, leaves and bamboo shoots. Some eat insects like ants too.

Gorilla poo contains seeds from the food they have eaten. The seeds get spread around the area where the gorillas live and grow into new plants. This helps keep the forests growing well.



What do they look like?

- Gorillas have black skin and mainly black fur.
- Adult male gorillas are called silverbacks because they grow silvery hair on their backs.
- Gorillas have longer and stronger arms than legs and usually walk on all fours on the ground.
- Young gorillas use their strong limbs to help them climb and play in trees.



Are they endangered?

Different gorilla species are endangered or critically endangered. The overall number of gorillas is decreasing but the number of mountain gorillas is increasing. This is because of conservation work to protect them.

Gorillas are at risk from deforestation and habitat loss, illegal hunting and illness.

Did you know...?

Gorillas usually live in family groups of about ten called troops.

