

Gorilla

Gorilla beringei / Gorilla gorilla

Critically Endangered

Fact Sheet · Colouring Page · Activities

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Gorilla — Fact Sheet

Scientific name	Gorilla beringei / Gorilla gorilla
Conservation status	Critically Endangered
Region	DR Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea
Habitat	Tropical rainforests and mountain forests of Central Africa
Diet	Herbivore — leaves, stems, fruit, bark, and roots
Weight	135–220 kg (male), 70–90 kg (female)
Size	Up to 1.8 m standing
Lifespan	35–40 years in the wild
Wild population	Fewer than 1,100 mountain gorillas; around 100,000 western lowland gorillas

Did You Know?

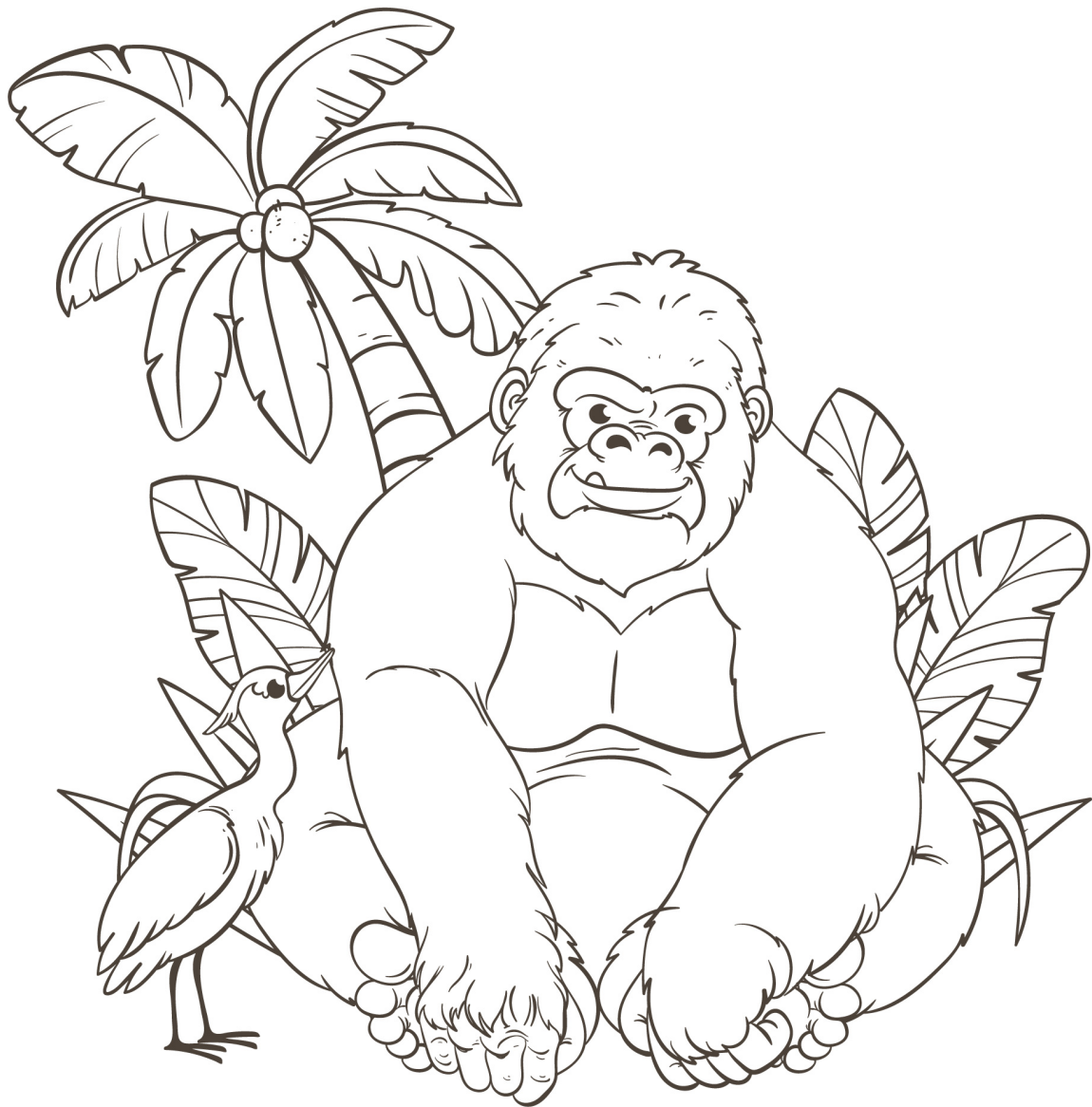
- Gorillas share 98.3% of their DNA with humans — our closest relatives after chimpanzees!
- A silverback's back hair turns silver-grey between ages 11 and 13.
- Gorillas build a brand new sleeping nest from branches every single night.
- Mountain gorillas wander a home range of up to 39 km² — roughly the size of 5,000 football pitches.
- Baby gorillas ride on their mother's back — just like a piggyback ride!
- Mountain gorilla numbers have increased from 620 in 1989 to over 1,100 today — a real conservation success!

Threats to Survival

1. Habitat loss and deforestation
2. Poaching for bushmeat and illegal pet trade
3. Disease — gorillas catch human respiratory illnesses
4. Civil conflict in their range countries limiting conservation

Colour Me: Gorilla

Gorillas have black fur. Adult male silverbacks have a grey or silver patch on their back. Their faces are bare with dark skin.



Gorilla — Activities

Word Search

Find all 8 words hidden in the grid.

Z	R	T	I	P	Q	N	D	T	G	I	X
E	B	A	C	S	S	N	A	O	I	B	K
H	N	E	I	C	G	T	Z	M	O	C	X
X	L	D	A	N	I	F	T	Z	A	F	E
E	C	U	A	B	F	J	P	B	F	T	E
F	Q	H	A	N	K	O	R	H	A	M	M
A	Q	H	F	B	G	E	R	M	O	O	Y
F	Z	A	H	S	V	E	I	E	J	J	I
R	D	Q	R	L	R	R	R	J	S	C	M
I	K	D	I	D	P	X	W	E	S	T	Z
C	T	S	E	A	O	J	B	X	D	L	M
A	X	L	J	G	O	R	I	L	L	A	X

GORILLA	SILVERBACK	RAINFOREST	ENDANGERED
AFRICA	PRIMATE	HABITAT	CONSERVATION

Match It Up

Draw a line from each word on the left to its meaning on the right.

Gorilla		eats leaves and fruit
Silverback		where gorillas live
Baby gorilla		a danger to gorillas
Rainforest		rides on mum's back
Poaching		leader of the gorilla troop

Fill in the Blanks

- Gorillas live in _____ in Central Africa.
- A male gorilla leader is called a _____.
- Gorillas share ____% of their DNA with humans.
- Mountain gorillas are _____ Endangered.

Answers: rainforests / Silverback / 98.3 / Critically

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