

#8676

CHIMPANZEES OF UGANDA

Grade Levels: 4-12

26 minutes

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DESCRIPTION

Compares four species of chimpanzees and monkeys in Uganda's Kibale National Park. Looks at the habitats, characteristics, food, and socialization of the chimps, red colobos, black-and-white colobos, and red-tailed monkeys. Discusses the impact of careless logging on the forests these endangered animals call home. NOTE: One brief mating scene.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Life Sciences

- ◆ Standard: Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment
 - Benchmark: Knows that all organisms (including humans) cause changes in their environments, and these changes can be beneficial or detrimental
 - Benchmark: Knows ways in which humans can alter the equilibrium of ecosystems, causing potentially irreversible effects (e.g., human population growth, technology, and consumption; human destruction of habitats through direct harvesting, pollution, and atmospheric changes)

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To identify the similarities between chimpanzees and humans.
2. To develop an awareness of the decreasing number of ape species.
3. To create an awareness of the future survival of chimpanzees.
4. To stimulate interest in protecting endangered species.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The ruthless 1970s regime of Idi Amin wasn't just horrendous for the people of Uganda, it was also a disaster for the country's wildlife. Amin's cronies logged the forests and slaughtered elephants and other large mammals. And when the Tanzanian army eventually invaded the country, hungry soldiers killed almost anything that moved—apes included.

Slowly, monkey and ape numbers are increasing, but the primates remain endangered and extremely susceptible to habitat loss.

The relationship between primates and forests is entirely symbiotic. By eating fruit and passing seeds through their digestive system, primates help trees spread far and wide. Without the trees, the primates will have to move—and since many of them, chimpanzees included, are extremely territorial, that's not a pleasant prospect.

Like humans, chimpanzees are social creatures with a sense of humor. Ninety-nine percent of chimpanzee and human DNA are identical.

Despite their size (they can weigh up to 45 kilograms or 100 pounds), chimpanzees are agile tree-climbers, perfectly at home on the forest floor and in its canopy.

After nearly 10 years of study, Colin Chapman continues to find chimps and their smaller monkey cousins endlessly fascinating.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Locate Uganda's Kibale Nature Park on a map.
2. Selective loggers cut only certain trees in a forest, instead of cutting down all the trees in one particular area (clear-cutting). Discuss if selective logging might have negative effects on monkey and ape populations.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

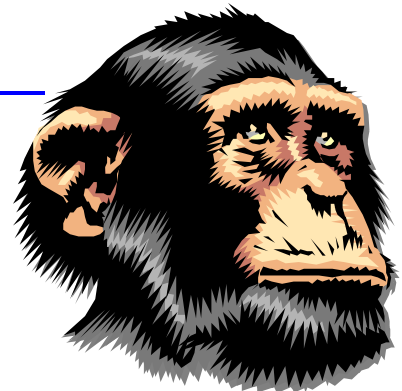
1. List three similarities between chimpanzee society and human society. Name some important differences between the two.
2. How many primate families are there? Which do humans belong to?
3. Why have so many different monkey species evolved over time?

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Chimps: So Like Us #7697
- Costa Rican Monkeys #8686
- Protecting Endangered Animals #2000
- Uganda: The Pearl of Africa #3674



World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **UGANDA**

<http://www.uganda.co.ug>

Official site of Uganda. History, government, economy, environment, tourism, news, and much more!

- **THE JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE**

<http://www.janegoodall.org>

Click on the "Chimps" tab to learn more about their habitat, physical characteristics, social organization, and communication.

- **AFRICAN PRIMATES AT HOME**

<http://indiana.edu/~primate/primates.html>

East African primate facts, images, sounds and links, courtesy of a scientist at the University of Indiana.

- **PRIMATE INFO NET**

<http://www.primate.wisc.edu/pin/peduc.html>

Instructional resources for educators (including lesson plans) on primates. Click on "Gorilla Cam" and "Orangutan Cam at the National Zoo" to watch these primates live!