

## Fifi

**Born 1958** Fifi was only two years old when Dr. Jane Goodall started her research at Gombe in 1960. Born to high-ranking Flo, she is currently the oldest of the known Kasakela chimpanzees.

As a youngster, Fifi was fascinated by other infants and frequently "kidnapped" her younger siblings. She handled her siblings very gently in travel, and in grooming and playing sessions. She participated with her mother in many social contexts and therefore gained much social experience, which probably led to her later success.

Today, Fifi is the most successful female in Gombe, she has had eight offspring (seven of whom have survived). Her eldest son, Freud, was the most powerful male in the community from 1993-1997 until he was overthrown by younger brother Frodo, who is currently alpha male. She also has two adolescent sons, Faustino and Ferdinand, and her youngest is a playful daughter named Flirt.

Fifi is also a grandmother. Her eldest daughter, Fanni, lives near her and has two sons, Fudge and Fundi. Another daughter, Flossi, emigrated to a neighboring community where she has also become high-ranking and gave birth in 2001 to her second son, Fansi.

## Flirt

**Born 1998** Flirt is Fifi's eighth child. She was a huge baby, even at birth, and continues to grow at an astonishing rate. Her size is especially magnified when she is around Gremlin's twins, who are the same age, but very small. With her huge size comes an even bigger personality! She is a very rough and tumble little chimp and has no problem holding her own when playing with her older brother Ferdinand or any of the other young chimps. One particular behavior is very telling of Flirt's personality. While other young chimps will ride on their mothers' backs in a crouched over, jockey-like position, Flirt often stands when they are traveling and stamps her feet on Fifi's back - like she is ready to take on the world.

## Freud

**Born 1971** No-one thought that Freud would ever become alpha male. He's always been a very relaxed chimp, and spends a lot of time by himself. But suddenly, when he was 21 years old, he challenged Wilkie, and became alpha male.

Unlike his younger brother, Frodo, Freud didn't maintain his position using pure force. While he is a large chimp with an impressive display, he also used peaceful tactics to stay on top. After he performed a charging display, he would often sit and groom his rivals, sometimes for hours, relieving tension and keeping the peace.

Freud was alpha for four and a half years. Since losing the top position, he has shown little interest in fighting for rank. But, with his intimidating displays, he has shown that he is still a force to be reckoned with.

## Frodo

**Born 1976** Frodo is Fifi's second son, and was a mischievous youngster, and often threw rocks at chimps and people alike. Frodo has grown into the largest chimp in the history of the Gombe chimpanzee project, weighing in at roughly 115 pounds. Frodo has used his size to his advantage, and with his impressive displays and violent attacks, quickly advanced in the male dominance hierarchy. On October 2, 1997, Frodo dominated his brother Freud and became the highest ranking male. He has been alpha ever since, and very secure in his position. It is not unusual to see him being groomed by three or four chimps at once! He rarely grooms them back.

Frodo is a very fond of meat, and despite his large size, is very agile as he leaps through the canopy after colobus monkeys. He deflects the defensive efforts of the male colobus monkeys, punching them or flinging them to the ground as he chases the mothers and juveniles. If he is unsuccessful during a hunt, he often steals a carcass from a successful hunter, or intimidates them into sharing a large piece with him.

Frodo's violent tendencies have made him a rather unpopular character, both among the researchers and the chimps.

## Gaia

**Born 1993** Gaia is Gremlin's oldest daughter. She is a sweet and funny chimp who loves nothing more than to play with her little twin sisters, Golden and Glitter. She is also an ace at fishing for termites and will go on fishing long after her mother has stopped to take a rest.

Elizabeth Vinson Lonsdorf remembers "My favorite memory of Gaia was one day during a heavy rain. When a rainstorm first begins, chimps will sometimes head under a nearby tree to take advantage of the protection of the leaves, and will stay dry for quite a few minutes. However, as the forest begins to get soaked, the rain pours through the leaves and everything gets wet. On one such day, Gaia was hunkered down under a tree and was starting to get very wet. She apparently spied a better spot because she jumped and waddled (bipedally, with her arms folded across her chest) across the trail towards another tree. However, on the way, she slipped on a wet palm frond and fell flat on her back! She quickly shot a glance at me, as I was laughing hysterically, and then jumped up and ran off (on all fours) to her new spot."

## Goblin

**Born 1964** Goblin is currently the oldest male in the Kasakela community. Goblin was the youngest male ever to reach alpha status, first doing so in 1979 at the age of 15. Many believe that he dominated the other males using sheer persistence. He was known for getting up early in the morning and knocking other chimps out of their nests! This persistence helped him to regain the top position after Figan, the previous alpha male, briefly battled his way back to the top.

Goblin finally lost his alpha status on October 25, 1989 when he was viciously attacked by the other males. He escaped, but it was only with the help of antibiotics administered by the field staff that he managed to survive. He spent weeks alone, resting, receiving medication, and running from other chimps when he heard them coming. He finally returned to the group when he was fully healed.

Since losing his top-ranking position, Goblin has always been able to maintain a relatively high spot in the hierarchy by establishing a relationship with the alpha male. Goblin spends a great deal of time with the alpha, grooming him, resting near him and displaying at the same time. Because of this relationship, the alpha male may support Goblin squabbles with other males. Other chimps may be less likely to retaliate against Goblin if the alpha male is close by.

Goblin quickly changes his alliances as soon as there is a change of alpha male. In September, 1997, Goblin was spending a lot of time with Freud, the alpha male. He helped to support Freud against other males, and groomed him a great deal. However, as soon as Freud lost his position to his younger brother Frodo, Goblin immediately changed his behavior, left Freud, and began forging an alliance with Frodo. No doubt this pattern will repeat when Frodo is overthrown.

## Golden & Glitter

**Born 1998** Human observers were shocked in the summer of 1998 to see Gremlin give birth to not one, but TWO infants - twins!!! The Gombe staff soon discovered that they were both female and Jane named them Golden and Glitter. Twins are very rare in nature; Golden and Glitter are only the third set ever born at Gombe. None of the previous sets have had both twins survive to adulthood. In fact, one of the other sets of twins were born to Gremlin's mother, Melissa. Only one survived, Gremlin's brother Gimble. His twin died within their first year; as Gimble became bigger and stronger, his twin eventually just got sickly and died. Fortunately, Golden and Glitter have made it past the critical first, second and third birthdays, are equal in size and strength, and both seem to be very healthy. Although they are twins, they have quite different personalities. Glitter is shy, stays closer to her mother and watches everything very carefully. Golden is much more rough and tumble and willing to go off exploring on her own.

## Gremlin

**Born 1970** When Gremlin was seven years old, her middle-ranking mother Melissa gave birth to Gombe's first set of twins in 1977. Gremlin had a very close relationship with her mother and a relatively secure childhood, which probably resulted in her self-reliance and independence as a child, and later led to her success into adulthood.

Gremlin often helped care for her younger siblings when she was young, so it is no surprise today that Gremlin is very protective, efficient, and assured in handling her own offspring. Dr. Jane Goodall describes Gremlin as "a wonderful mother; she is gentle, affectionate and playful."

Gremlin has given birth to six offspring including Gombe's third set of twins in July 1998. Sadly, her first two sons died before they were full-grown. Currently Gremlin has three dependent offspring, eight-year-old Gaia and the twins. Researchers are now able to chart the developments of her twins in the wild and study the similarities and differences between them. They have unique personalities - Golden is brave and particularly social, while Glitter is careful, inventive, and curious. Gremlin is also famous for being the most adept termite-fisher in the community, although her daughter Gaia may one day surpass her in skill.

## Patti

**Born 1961** Patti was not born in Gombe's main community, but joined the group as an adolescent in 1973. Even though she was an outsider, she was quite assertive from the beginning and is to this day. Patti is usually found traveling alone with her offspring, rather than with other mothers or group members.

She didn't have the best luck as a mother at first, because she seemed not to know what to do with her babies. As a result, her first infant died shortly after birth. Her second son survived a rather rough childhood, but then died as a juvenile. However, she now has four surviving offspring, two daughters and two sons, and has recently become a grandmother. Both of her daughters, Tita and Tanga, live in the main community and are first time mothers themselves. Her son Titan is seven years old and has grown into quite a dominant, aggressive young chimp. Her new baby, Tarzan, is two years old and loves to roughhouse with his older brother.