

## JANE GOODALL'S WILD CHIMPANZEES

### Chimpanzee Facts

Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees is a giant screen film about one of the world's best-known scientists and her legendary work with the chimpanzees of Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania.

- Chimpanzees are found in 21 African countries.
- At the beginning of the 20th century, nearly 2 million chimpanzees populated African forests. Today, that number has dwindled to around 150,000.
- The average size of an adult male chimpanzee is four feet (standing upright) and 90 – 115 pounds. Adult females are slightly smaller. Frodo, the alpha male of the chimpanzee community that Dr. Goodall studied, weighed 120 pounds at age 20. He is the heaviest chimpanzee ever recorded at Gombe. At birth, chimpanzees only weigh 2 to 4 pounds!
- Chimpanzees can live up to 50 years in the wild. Average life spans of chimpanzees in captivity are slightly longer.
- Chimpanzees are omnivores. They like to eat fruits, buds, seeds, blossoms, insects, and even small mammals. Chimpanzees have been known to be successful hunters, and Dr. Goodall has witnessed them sharing their kill with other members of their communities.
- Biologically, chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than they are to gorillas. We share close to 99% of the same DNA.
- Chimpanzees' arms are longer than their legs. This characteristic makes it possible for them to reach out to fruits growing on thin branches that can't support their weight.
- Chimpanzees can walk upright for short distances if their hands are full, but they usually use a "knuckle walk" – with the bottoms of their feet and the knuckles of their hands making contact with the ground.
- Chimpanzees have opposable thumbs and opposable big toes to help them grip.
- Like human babies, infant chimpanzees rely on affectionate physical contact for healthy development.
- Chimpanzee young are dependent on their mothers until age 7.
- Grooming is one of the most important social behaviors in chimpanzee communities. It helps them maintain – or even improve – friendships!
- Chimps are capable of demonstrating emotions such as joy and sadness, fear and despair, and love and empathy.
- Chimpanzees don't have the power of vocal language, but some chimps in captivity have been taught more than 300 signs in American Sign Language!

Source: <http://www.janegoodall.org>