

## ***JANE GOODALL'S WILD CHIMPANZEES***

### **Dr. Jane Goodall**

Jane Goodall suspected from an early age that her path would lead her to a career working with wild animals. Having been born in England in 1934, however, her role models were few. It was uncommon for women to venture into the field to study animals. Jane's mother, Vanne, however, had these words of advice for Jane: "Jane, if you really want something, and if you work hard, take advantage of the opportunities, and never give up, you will somehow find a way." And Jane did.

After completing secretarial school in England, Jane got a job working with a documentary film company. When a friend invited her to spend some time in Kenya when Jane was 23, she jumped at the chance. When she arrived in Africa, Jane arranged to meet with paleontologist and anthropologist Louis Leakey. Impressed by Jane's knowledge of and enthusiasm for African wildlife, Leakey offered her a job as his assistant. Jane accompanied Dr. Leakey on a fossil-hunting mission to Olduvai Gorge. The trip further inspired Jane to pursue a career in science – but her real desire was to study live animals in the wild. Goodall and Leakey began to discuss the possibility of Jane studying the wild chimpanzees on the shores of Lake Tanganyika.

British officials resisted the idea of a young British woman venturing alone into the wilds of Africa, but when Jane's mother offered to accompany her on her trip, they agreed to allow the trip. Jane and her mother arrived at Gombe Stream National Park in July of 1960, and Jane set to work.

After months of searching and being frustrated by the chimpanzees of Gombe fleeing at the sight of her, Jane's persistence paid off. The chimpanzees gradually grew accustomed to her presence, and she made groundbreaking observations about chimpanzee behavior and social structure. Jane was the first to, among other things, witness chimpanzees crafting hunting tools out of sticks. Her work revolutionized the field of wildlife biology and challenged humans to reconsider their role as "Man the Toolmaker."

Jane earned her Ph.D. in Ethology from Cambridge University in 1965 and went on to establish the Gombe Stream Research Center, where scientists continue to conduct research on the park's inhabitants with a firm philosophy of non-interference. In 1977, she founded the Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife and Conservation, which continues to operate today. After its inception, the institute moved to various places around the country before settling in its current home in Washington, DC. The Jane Goodall Institute's goal is to increase awareness of global conservation programs and to promote activities that ensure the well-being of chimpanzees.

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Jane Goodall is also the founder of Roots & Shoots, a grassroots environmental education program that has grown from one group of students in east Africa to more than 1,000 groups worldwide. Roots & Shoots encourages students to be active in their efforts to protect animals, the environment, and human communities.

Jane spends most of her time today touring internationally, speaking about her research and her efforts to protect the chimpanzees at Gombe and the environment. In addition to her active conservation and education efforts, Jane Goodall has written numerous articles and books about her research at Gombe.