

Chimps scream, hoot and go ape

Africa is one wild place! The Kid has seen really wild animals in their wilderness homes. We've met wonderful people and marveled at the beautiful scenery.

We've also learned about the delicate balance of people, animals and plant life as we visit endangered species around the world.

If any one part of nature gets out of balance, it can have a bad effect.

A simple thing like lack of rain can make it hard for crops to grow. Humans and animals then struggle to find food and water.

Around the world, people push into the wilderness looking for places to live. They cut trees to sell the lumber and convert the area to farms. They hunt wild animals to sell as meat, pets and exotic products.

Diseases like rabies, canine distemper and viruses can wipe out species. This is happening right now in East Africa.

Chimpanzees struggle against all these forces.

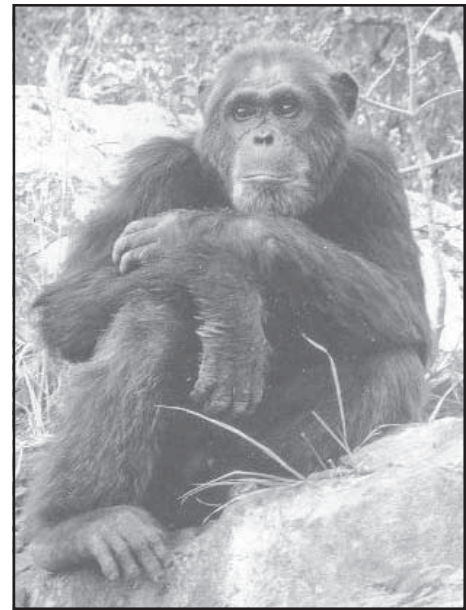
Their wilderness homes disappear as trees are cut and cleared for farming. They must compete for food and shelter in a shrinking area.

Chimps catch some of the same diseases as humans. The Ebola virus threatens chimpanzee groups as



Photos by Curt Busse

Michaelmas (left) and Mike (right) were photographed at the Gombe National Park.



well as many humans. Chimps can catch pneumonia from humans.

Hunters kill chimps for meat or trap them to sell as pets.

A hundred years ago, about two million chimps lived in Africa. Today, there are only 100,000 to 175,000 chimpanzees. They live across the forest zone from western Tanzania and Uganda to Guinea.

Chimps are intelligent, curious and social. Chimps are the animal most like a human. They share 98% of our genes.

Chimpanzees are not monkeys. They are apes, like gorillas. Chimpanzees live in groups called troops. The troop contains 30 to 80 chimps.

Chimps are 3 to 4-1/2 feet tall. They weight 55 to 110 pounds.

They have a thick body with long arms, short legs and no tail. Their face, ears, toes and fingers are hairless. The rest of their body is covered with black hair.

Chimps have fingers and thumbs that work like a human hand. Chimps use tools. They devise weapons, using sticks as clubs or to throw at an enemy.

Chimps are very noisy! They have a complex communication system. A loud "wraaa" warning call can be heard more than a mile away. The chimps also hoot "hoo-hoo-hoo." They scream, grunt and pound on hollow trees with their hands.

Baby chimps stay with their mothers for about four years. A chimp lives up to 50 years.

Jane Goodall studied chimpanzees at the Gombe National Park in Tanzania, a wilderness area set aside for chimps.

We can also visit orphan chimps at the Ngamba Island Chimp Sanctuary in Uganda.

Capital Match

Match these African countries with their capital cities

Somalia	Pretoria
Kenya	Kampala
Tanzania	Nairobi
Egypt	Mogadishu
Uganda	Cairo
South Africa	Dar es Salaam



Newspaper in Education activity

Find the following things in your newspaper:

- A noun that begins with C.
- A verb that begins with H.
- An adjective that begins with I.
- A word that begins with M in an advertisement.
- A word that begins with P in a news story.