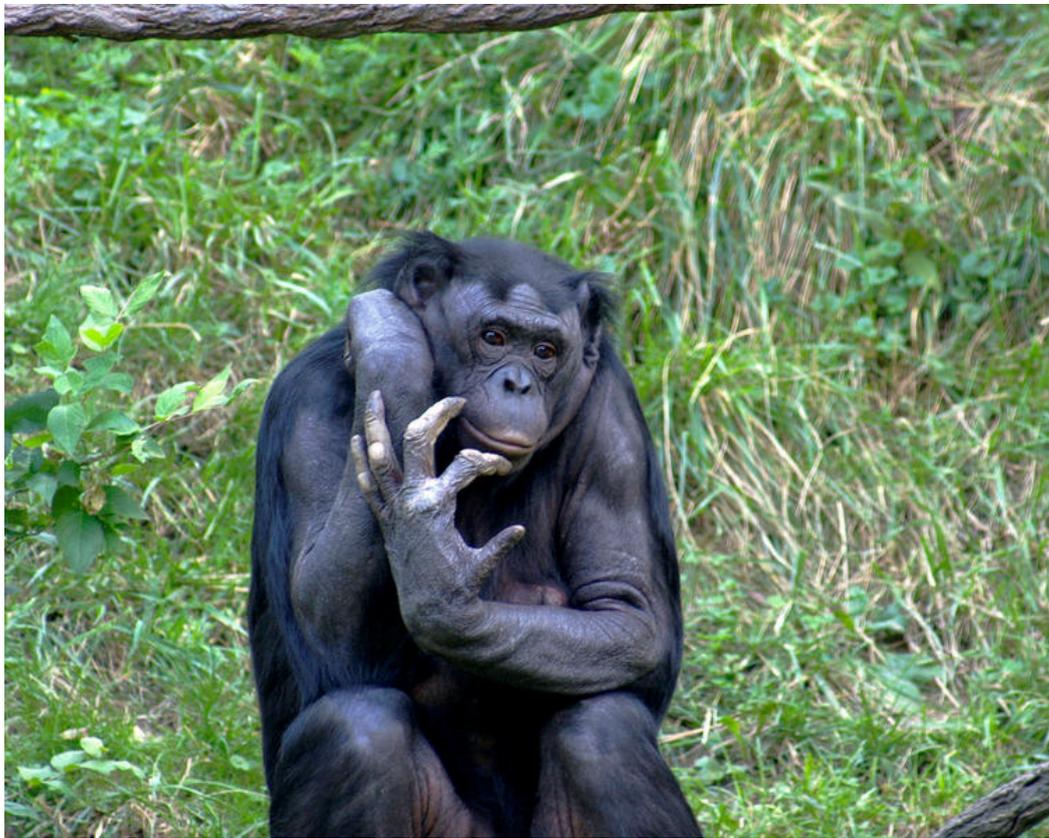


Conservation Status: Endangered

The Chimpanzee



St. Aiden's Home School, South Africa

Cover Picture: Photo taken by Kabir Bakie at the Cincinnati Zoo May 2005.

Chimpanzees are our closest living relatives.

It is thought that we share 98.5% of the same genetic makeup as them. Chimpanzees are highly intelligent animals, and are often trained to perform in circuses and zoos. Some are also sold to people as pets.

An adult chimpanzee is 3-4 times stronger than an average human.

There are two kinds of chimpanzee; the Common Chimpanzee, which can be found in the humid forest of Africa, and the Bonobo or Pygmy Chimpanzee, which can only be found in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo. They usually live in family groups made up of six to seven individuals. These family groups are then part of a wider community of between 12 to 50 individuals.

Common Chimpanzees can be found in 21 African countries.

Chimpanzees are often hunted for their meat. This is known as 'bushmeat.' Much of the hunting that takes place is illegal. Many baby chimpanzees are orphaned and left to die, after their mothers have been killed. The logging industry clears forests, and therefore destroys the chimpanzees habitat. When this happens chimpanzees are left with no shelter or food.



Chimpanzees make nests from twigs and branches and sleep in the tree tops.

What Can You Do?

- Don't attend events that exploit animals or cause suffering, such as circuses, zoos or aquariums.
- Never pay to have your picture taken with a wild animal.
- Don't buy wild animals or products which are made from their body parts.
- Living corals take centuries to grow, and provide vital support for marine life.
- Never buy or take living organisms from the sea.

Source: http://www.wspa.org.au/for_kids.asp



Photo taken by Kabir Bakie at the Cincinnati Zoo September 5, 2005. This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution ShareAlike 2.5 License.

Chimpanzee, often shortened to **chimp**, is the common name for the two extant species in the genus ***Pan***. The better known chimpanzee is *Pan troglodytes*, the Common Chimpanzee, living in West and Central Africa. Its cousin, the Bonobo or "Pygmy Chimpanzee", *Pan paniscus*, is found in the forests of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Congo River forms the boundary between the two species. Chimpanzees are members of the Hominidae family, along with gorillas, humans, and orangutans.

A full grown adult male chimpanzee can weigh from 35-70 kilograms (75-155 pounds) and stand 0.9-1.2 meters (3-4 feet) tall, while females usually weigh 26-50 kg (57-110 pounds) and stand 0.66-1 meters (2.0-3.5 feet) tall.

Chimpanzees rarely live past the age of 40 in the wild, but have been known to reach the age of 60 in captivity. Cheeta, star of *Tarzan* is still alive as of 2007 at the age of 75, making him the oldest known chimpanzee in the world.

Africans have had contact with chimpanzees for thousands of centuries. Chimpanzees have been kept as domesticated pets for centuries in a few African villages, especially in the Congo. The first recorded contact of Europeans with chimps took place in present-day Angola during the 1600s. The diary of Portuguese explorer Duarte Pacheco Pereira (1506) is probably the first European document to acknowledge that chimpanzees built their own rudimentary tools.

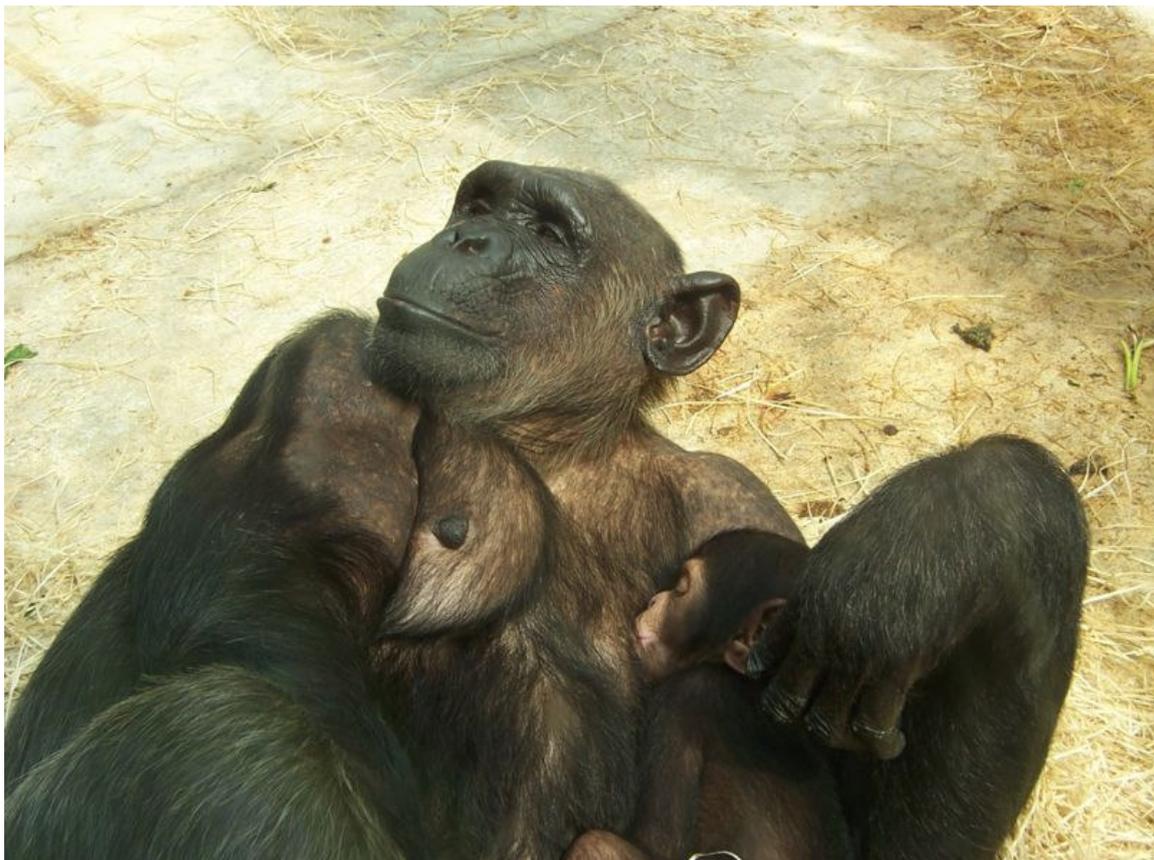
The first use of the name "chimpanzee" did not occur until 1738. The name comes from a Tshiluba language term "kivili-chimpenze", which is the local name for the animal and means loosely "mockman" or possibly just "ape". The "nickname" "chimp" was most likely used some time in the late 1870s.

The 20th century saw new research into chimpanzee behaviour. Prior to 1960, almost nothing was known about chimpanzee behavior in their natural habitat. In July of that year, Jane Goodall set out to Tanzania's Gombe forest to live among the chimpanzees. Her discovery that chimpanzees made and used tools was groundbreaking, as humans were previously believed to be the only species to do so. The early studies on chimpanzees were headed by Wolfgang Köhler and Robert Yerkes, both psychologists.

Common Chimpanzees have been known to attack humans on occasion. There have been many attacks in Uganda by chimpanzees against human children; the results are

sometimes fatal for the children. Some of these attacks are thought to be due to chimpanzees being intoxicated (from alcohol obtained from rural brewing operations) and mistaking human children for the Western Red Colobus, one of their favorite meals. The dangers of careless human interactions with chimpanzees are only aggravated by the fact that many chimpanzees see humans as potential rivals, and by the fact that the average chimpanzee has over 5 times the upper-body strength of a human male. As a result virtually any angered chimpanzee can easily overpower and potentially kill even a fully grown man.

Humans and chimpanzees are ticklish in the same areas of the body, like the armpits.



Mother Chimp and her Baby. Permissions by copyright holder by Gamnan.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten horizontal dashed lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of fifteen horizontal dashed lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal dashed lines on a white background.



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