

Lesson Plan #3

Name of Lesson: The Gorilla Family and the Zoo

Lesson overview:

In this lesson, the first piece of written text will be read to the students to expose them to the gorilla troop at the Calgary Zoo and to introduce them to gorilla habits, diet, family composition, and habitat. As well, new vocabulary needed for the unit will appear here.

Objectives:

Language Learning	Concept	Strategies
Stating factual information Seeking factual information and confirming a known fact	Relationships Structures Rituals and traditions, Responsibilities Social conventions Family organization The individual, and community	Recognizing and using formulas and patterns Using other clues Identifying the purpose of a language task (purposeful listening, reading, speaking, writing) Using information in the text to guess meanings of new items, predict outcomes, or complete missing parts Cooperation, and working together with peers to solve a problem, Pool information to check a learning task, or to obtain feedback on oral or written performance

Materials: Adapted article “The Gorilla Family and the Zoo”
Large sized chart paper (or black or white board)
Individual charts
Vocabulary list and text questions
Modified cloze activity
Word search

Activities: Chart descriptive information
Complete vocabulary definitions
Three-level questioning activity (QAR)
‘Fill in the blanks’ modified cloze activity; comprehension check
Word search

Teaching Phase:

Part 1: Warm up

- Begin by asking students if they have ever seen a gorilla or picture of a gorilla. Ask them to share any knowledge they might have about gorillas.
- Follow this up by telling them that they will be looking at and learning about the gorilla family and comparing it to the human family.

Part 2: Teaching new language, concepts, and strategies

- Provide each student with an individual copy of “The Gorilla Family and the Zoo”.
- Read the article to the class. Follow this with a discussion/questioning session about the bolded words and the information in the article.
- Go back and re-read the article aloud, section by section.
- Stop after each section and ask students to provide the relevant chart information.
- Copy this information onto the large chart.
- At the conclusion of this activity, provide students with individual copies of the chart, vocabulary list and lesson questions.
- Then have students copy the information from the large chart into their individual charts.
- Students will then work on the vocabulary exercise. After a set time, have the students pair up and help one another to fill in any definitions that they may not have completed.
- Assign specific students to write each new vocabulary word, definition, and sentence example out on a paper strip to add to the word wall.
- Students will then answer the additional questions based on the QAR questioning strategy (‘Right There’, ‘Think and Search’, and ‘On My Own’).
- If they complete this work before the end of the class, they can work on the word search. Completing this puzzle can be students’ homework assignment.

Part 3: Practice/reinforcement and extension of new learning

- Take up the questions in class, perhaps by requesting students to volunteer answers.
- With a partner, or in small groups, ask students to create ten sentences (paragraph format – which you may have to review) or a short story about gorillas, using at least ten of the new vocabulary words.

- Conclude this activity with pair-share or R.A.G.S. (read-around-group –share) and then each student can place this piece of writing in their portfolio.

Part 4: Closure

- To check for comprehension, have students complete the cloze activity and collect these for marking.

The Gorilla Family and the Zoo

Compiled by D. Abraham

A. At the Zoo

At the Calgary Zoo, you might be lucky enough to observe a baby gorilla **tumbling** and playing with its mother or with **Kakinga**, the **silverback** of the zoo's gorilla troop, or family. Watching the gorillas play would be a lot like watching a human baby play as the gorilla is a close **relative** of humans. The females in this family troop are **Tabitha**, **Julia**, and **Dorge**.

There are three kinds of gorillas in Africa. The mountain gorilla lives in the mountains of central Africa. The two kinds of **lowland** gorillas live in the **rain forests** along the **western** coast of **central** Africa.

The gorillas at the Calgary Zoo are lowland gorillas. There are eight gorillas in the Calgary Zoo's family. They all live together in a new gorilla **pavilion**, which has many of the **features** of an African rain forest. Zoos play a big part in saving these **endangered** animals.

B. All About Gorillas

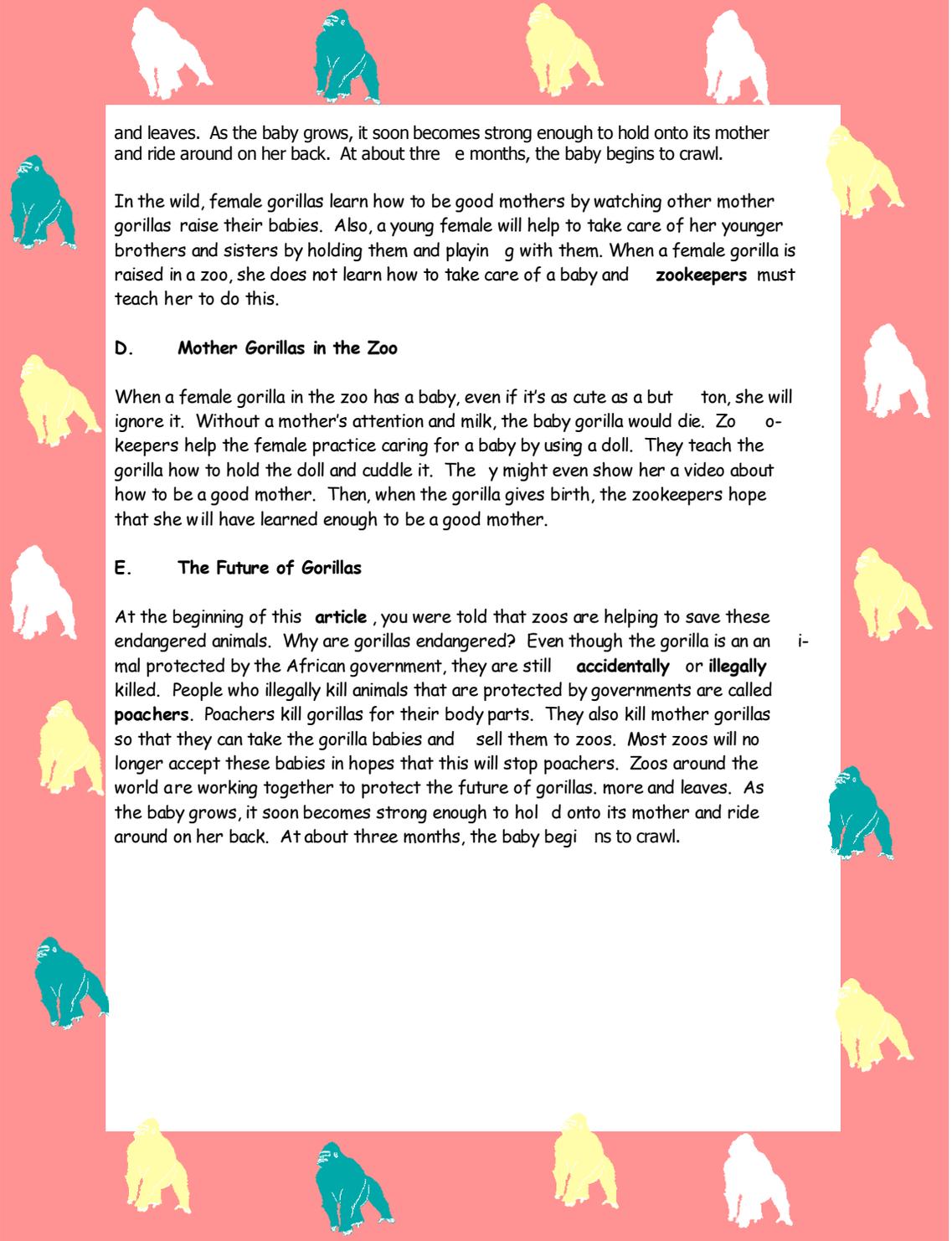
Gorillas are the largest of all **primates**. Primates are a group of animals that includes monkeys, gorillas, and humans. Male gorillas can weigh over (450) kilograms and females weigh about (200) kilograms. Gorillas can live to be fifty years old.

Like humans, gorillas are very social animals and like to spend lots of time with their family. In the wild, they may spend half their day looking for food. Gorillas eat different kinds of fruits and plants. (At the zoo, they really enjoy eating lettuce.) Gorillas spend most of their time on the ground, moving around from place to place. At night, they build a nest to sleep in and, generally, each night means a new nest.

C. The Gorilla Family

As a male gorilla gets older, a large, silvery patch of fur appears across his back. This male becomes an **adult** at about ten years of age and is called a silverback. The silverback leads and protects an entire gorilla family. Young males, several females, and their babies make up the rest of the gorilla family, which may have ten to twenty members. The silverback often plays with the young gorillas, even letting the baby gorillas climb on him.

When a baby gorilla is born, it is helpless just like a human baby. During the first month of its life, a baby gorilla must be held and carried just like a baby human. It is not strong enough to hold on to its mom by itself until after this time. Like all **mammals**, or warm-blooded animals that breathe oxygen, the baby gorilla drinks its mother's milk. After a few months, as it gets older and stronger, the baby will start to eat solid food such as berries



and leaves. As the baby grows, it soon becomes strong enough to hold onto its mother and ride around on her back. At about three months, the baby begins to crawl.

In the wild, female gorillas learn how to be good mothers by watching other mother gorillas raise their babies. Also, a young female will help to take care of her younger brothers and sisters by holding them and playing with them. When a female gorilla is raised in a zoo, she does not learn how to take care of a baby and **zookeepers** must teach her to do this.

D. Mother Gorillas in the Zoo

When a female gorilla in the zoo has a baby, even if it's as cute as a button, she will ignore it. Without a mother's attention and milk, the baby gorilla would die. Zookeepers help the female practice caring for a baby by using a doll. They teach the gorilla how to hold the doll and cuddle it. They might even show her a video about how to be a good mother. Then, when the gorilla gives birth, the zookeepers hope that she will have learned enough to be a good mother.

E. The Future of Gorillas

At the beginning of this **article**, you were told that zoos are helping to save these endangered animals. Why are gorillas endangered? Even though the gorilla is an animal protected by the African government, they are still **accidentally** or **illegally** killed. People who illegally kill animals that are protected by governments are called **poachers**. Poachers kill gorillas for their body parts. They also kill mother gorillas so that they can take the gorilla babies and sell them to zoos. Most zoos will no longer accept these babies in hopes that this will stop poachers. Zoos around the world are working together to protect the future of gorillas. more and leaves. As the baby grows, it soon becomes strong enough to hold onto its mother and ride around on her back. At about three months, the baby begins to crawl.

1. In the article, *'The Gorilla Family and the Zoo'*, several characteristics are given. Fill in the chart below and compare human characteristics to those of the gorilla.

	Gorillas	Humans
Adult male weight		
Adult female weight		
Age at adulthood		
Kinds of food		
Sleeping 'furniture'		
Family members include		
What babies eat		
How a new baby is treated		

2. **Vocabulary development:**

- a) Without looking in the dictionary explain what these words mean (give an example, or give another word that means the same thing).
- b) Below this information, use the word in a sentence to show that you understand its meaning and use.

- tumbling
- silverback
- relative
- rain forest
- pavilion
- features
- endangered
- primates
- adult
- mammals
- zookeeper
- article
- accidentally
- poacher
- illegally

- habitat
- deforestation
- species
- tropical
- encounter

Understanding the excerpt: 'The Gorilla Family and the Zoo'

3. The male gorilla that leads and protects a gorilla troop is called a _____?
4. What is the name of the dominant male at the Calgary Zoo?
5. How many gorillas live in the family at the Calgary Zoo?
6. Is this gorilla family smaller or larger than most gorilla families? Why?
7. What is another name for 'gorilla family'?
8. How many different kinds of gorillas are there? Name each type.
9. What kind of gorillas are the ones at the Calgary Zoo? What part of the world would they live in if they were still free?
10. Which animal is the largest primate?
11. What is a silverback?
12. Name three ways that gorillas are like humans.
13. Give **two** reasons that gorillas are endangered animals.
14. In what ways is a baby gorilla like a human baby?
15. How are zoos trying to help gorillas?

The Gorilla Family and the Zoo – Comprehension Check

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word to complete the story.

A. At the Zoo

Kakinga is the _____ of the gorilla _____ at the Calgary Zoo. There are _____ gorillas in his family. They all live together in a new gorilla _____ which has many features of an African _____ forest.

B. All About Gorillas



Close _____ of humans, gorillas are the largest of all _____. Adult male gorillas can weigh over 450 _____ and _____ weigh about 200 kilograms. Gorillas can _____ to be _____ years old.

Like _____, gorillas are very _____ animals and like to spend lots of time with their _____. In the wild, they may spend _____ their day looking for _____. Gorillas eat different kinds of _____ and _____. They spend most of their time on the _____ moving _____ from place to place. At night, they _____ a nest to _____ in and, generally, each night means a new nest.

C. The Gorilla Family

As the male gorilla gets _____ a large _____ patch of fur appears across his _____. This male becomes an _____ at about _____ years of age and is called a _____. The silverback leads and _____ the entire troop. The family may have ten to twenty _____ in the troop.

When a _____ gorilla is born, it is helpless just like a _____ baby. Like all _____, or warm-blooded animals that breathe _____, the baby gorilla drinks its mother's _____. After a few months, the baby will start to eat

solid _____ such as _____ and _____. By the time the baby is three months old, it begins to _____.

D. Mother Gorillas in the Zoo

_____ gorillas learn how to be good mothers by _____ other mother gorillas raise their babies. When a female gorilla is _____ in the zoo, she does not _____ how to take care of the baby and _____ must teach her to do this. Without a mother's _____ and _____, the baby will die.

Zookeepers help the female gorilla by _____ her how to care for the baby using a _____.

E. The Future of Gorillas

At the beginning of this _____ you were told that zoos are trying to help _____ by _____ these _____ animals. Even though the gorilla is an animal that is supposedly _____ by the African government, they are still killed either _____ or illegally. People who are not allowed to kill these protected animals but who still kill them _____ are called _____. These people kill gorillas for their _____ such as hands and _____. They also kill mother gorillas so that they can take the _____ and sell them to the _____. However, zoos around the _____ are working together to _____ the gorillas.

The Gorilla Family and the Zoo

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ILLEGALLY
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PRIMATES
REALTIVE
TUMBLING

ADULT
ENDANGERED
KAKINGA
PAVILION
PROTECT
SILVERBACK
WESTERN

CENTRAL
FEATURES
LOWLAND
POACHERS
RAINFORESTS
TABITHA
ZOOKEEPERS