

# Primate Behaviors

## **Knuckle-Walking**

Gorillas are designed to move about in the trees and on the ground. In the trees, their long arms and long fingers help them to hold onto and climb among branches. On the ground, gorillas move on all-fours, curling their long fingers and supporting their upper bodies on the backs of their knuckles. Among all the primates, gorillas and chimpanzees are the only knuckle-walkers.

## **Eating**

Gorillas are primarily vegetarians--eating leaves, plant shoots and fruits found in the forest. From time to time, they also enjoy insects such as termites and grubs. To maintain their size, gorillas spend up to 45 percent of their day eating.

## **Foraging**

If 45 percent of the day is spent feeding, the rest of their waking hours are spent foraging or searching for food. Gorillas can cover over a mile a day looking for things to eat.

## **Baby Care**

Baby gorillas weigh about 4.5 pounds at birth. Although they need a lot of attention and care from their mothers, they are born knowing how to grab onto their mother's chest while she moves through the forest. Gorilla moms are very protective and spend a great deal of time holding, grooming and nurturing their infants. Newborn gorillas--like newborn human babies--spend their days sleeping and nursing.

## **Sleeping**

Gorillas are diurnal--or daytime--animals, so nighttime is for sleeping. After spending their morning eating, the adults like to take a long midday nap.

## **Tree-Climbing**

Gorillas climb trees to find fruit or make nests for the night.

## **Brachiating**

Using the arms to hang or swing from branches

## **Grooming**

Gorillas spend a lot of time grooming. Using their fingers and lips, they help each other keep clean. But grooming is also important because it builds and strengthens family ties.

## **Playing**

While the grown-ups nap, younger gorillas like to play. They run around chasing and wrestling with each other. It's all fun and games, but playing is also how young gorillas learn, strengthen their bodies and establish their rank in the group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

# CONGO ETHOGRAM

## VIDEOS

BEHAVIORS	A	B	C	D	E	F
1. Knuckle-walking						
2. Eating						
3. Foraging						
4. Baby Care						
5. Resting						
6. Climbing						
7. Brachiating						
8. Grooming						
9. Playing						

**BEHAVIOR YOU  
WILL SEE MOST:**

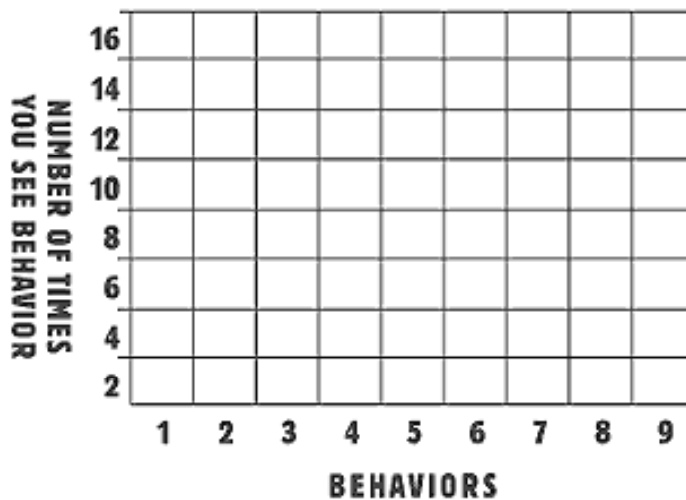
Prediction: \_\_\_\_\_

Observed: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEHAVIOR YOU  
WILL SEE LEAST:**

Prediction: \_\_\_\_\_

Observed: \_\_\_\_\_



 WCS

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# Gorilla Ethogram Web Quest Instructions

## Step 1 Open the website

- Open Firefox
- Type in Washington.spps.org
- Click on “Interdisciplinary Team”
- Click on “Life Science”
- Click on “Animals”
- Click on “Gorilla Webquest”

**Step 2** Read about the different types of Gorilla Behaviors (Flip this sheet over) or click on the behaviors

**Step 3** Predict what behaviors you will see the most, and the behaviors you will see the least and write your prediction on your paper (Bottom left above the monkey)

## Step 4

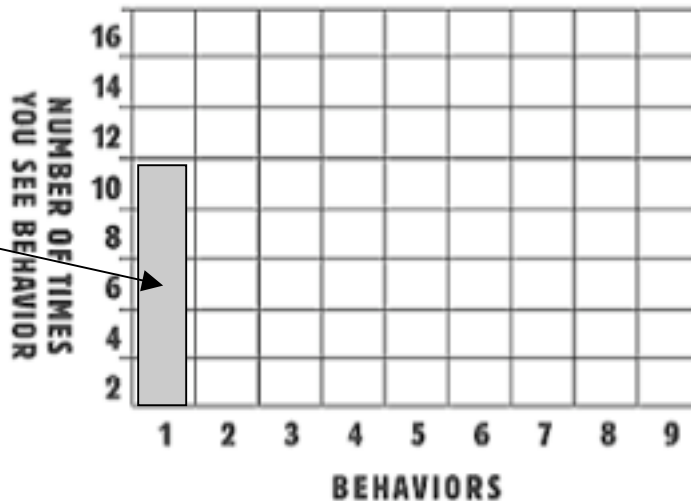
Watch the videos from Top to Bottom (A-E). Make a mark every time you observe the behavior. You can watch the video more than once to make sure you recorded all the behaviors.

*Note: Not all behaviors will be observed in a single video, some behaviors will be observed more than once.*

## Step 5

Add up the number of times you observed each behavior and make a bar graph on the graph provided.

Example  
1. Knuckle walking  
was observed a total  
of 12 times.



## Step 6

Write down the behaviors you saw the most and the behaviors you saw the least (bottom left above the monkey)