

Lesson Plan

Gorilla Groups

Book: *Gorillas*

Series: Animals of Africa

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practicing recalling details from a written text.

Supplies

- *Gorillas* book
- Whiteboard

Before the Activity

Read through the *Gorillas* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

After reading the *Gorillas* book, ask students to name the four types of gorillas. Write the names on the whiteboard:

- Mountain gorillas
- Eastern lowland gorillas
- Western lowland gorillas
- Cross river gorillas

As a class, work together to invent a unique action to represent the different groups of gorillas. The actions can be whatever the students want, as long as they are easy to do quickly and easy to tell apart. For example:

- For mountain gorillas, you might bring your hands together in a point over your head.
- For eastern lowland gorillas, you might reach your right hand down toward the floor.
- For western lowland gorillas, you might reach your left hand down toward the floor.
- For cross river gorillas, you might wiggle your fingers back and forth like flowing water.

Ask all the students to stand up. Practice the actions for each type of gorilla a few times. Next, explain that you are going to ask a question about gorillas. After you read each question, the students should do the action that represents the type of gorilla they think is the correct answer. You will say the correct gorilla name out loud. All the students who did the wrong action must sit down. The other students can remain standing. Then, you will read the next question. Students should do the action for the type of gorilla that they think is the answer to

that question.

Before reading the questions, warn the students that there may be more than one correct answer to some questions. If that's the case, students still do only one action. If their action is one of the correct answers, they can remain standing.

Gorilla Group Questions

1. Which gorillas live in Africa? **(A: all four)**
2. Which gorillas live in Central Africa? **(A: eastern lowland gorillas and mountain gorillas)**
3. Which gorillas live in the Virunga Mountains? **(A: mountain gorillas)**
4. Which gorillas live in western Africa? **(A: western lowland gorillas and cross river gorillas)**
5. Which gorillas live in cold areas? **(A: mountain gorillas)**
6. Which gorillas live in troops? **(A: all four)**
7. Which gorillas have long, thick fur? **(A: mountain gorillas)**
8. Which type of gorillas are the largest? **(A: eastern lowland gorillas)**
9. Which type of gorillas are the smallest? **(A: western lowland gorillas)**
10. Which gorillas use each other's body heat to stay warm? **(A: mountain gorillas)**

Evaluation

The last student standing wins.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 3 (RI 3.1).