

World Gorilla Day:



Know your Noses

In this activity, participants will learn how researchers in the wild tell individual gorillas apart. Match the nose prints to the gorilla profile photo.

Age: Children ages 7-12

Gather your Gear

- Optional: Print out the Nose Print and Gorilla Profile sheets

Get Ready *You can help your child make connections by thinking about concepts before the activity.*

There are two species of gorilla, each containing two subspecies. The two species are eastern and western, and the four sub-species are Cross River and western lowland (sub-species of the western species) and Grauer's and mountain (sub-species of the eastern species). All gorilla species are found in central Africa and listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. Researchers study gorillas so that we have a better understanding of their habitat, behaviors, life cycles, and physical and biological attributes – all in an effort to learn more so that we can help conserve them.

Studying individual gorillas can be tricky – unless you know what you are looking for. Humans have unique fingerprints. Similarly, no two gorillas have the same nose print! Researchers who study wild gorillas use photos of nose prints to identify individuals. This allows them to keep track of individual gorillas throughout their lifetimes.

Activity Instructions:

- Optional: Print out the Nose Print and Gorilla Profile activity sheets found below.
- Observe each nose print and find the photo of the gorilla it belongs to.
- Once finished, check the answer key found below.

Answer Key:

A = Lulu; B = Charlie; C = Jasiri; D = Kudzoo; E = Mbeli; F = Ozzie; G = Taz; H = Choomba

Recap *Have a conversation about what you saw/did and questions your child may have.*

- How does a gorilla nose print database help researchers studying gorillas in the wild?
- What do you think researchers could learn about individual gorillas by studying them over their lifetimes?
- What might be some challenges to studying gorillas in the wild?

Relate

As we noted before, all gorilla species are either listed as Endangered or Critically Endangered. That means that there are not many left of them in the wild. One of the main threats to gorillas is habitat

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loss. Habitat loss is the reality of an ecosystem being drastically changed by human activity such that it can no longer provide the food, water, shelter, and other resources wildlife need to survive.

Mining for the mineral coltan is one thing driving habitat loss for wild gorillas. Coltan is a mineral found inside electronics such as cell phones and small electronic devices.

Recycle your cell phones! You can protect gorillas by recycling your old cell phone(s) right here at the Zoo! Recycling cell phones and other small electronic devices protects gorilla habitat by reducing the need to mine for coltan, which can be reused. We accept *any* kind of cell phone to be recycled with Eco-Cell. For each cell phone received, gorillas benefit in two ways: the threat to their habitat is reduced, and a donation is made to support the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International's gorilla conservation and research.

It takes a team.... join ours

Help us save species by joining the "Zoo Conservation Corps" and raise awareness about wild animals, their habitats and why conserving both is so important. If your family members are on social media, post to show what you have learned, and use the hashtags #OnlyZooATL and #WorldGorillaDay so that we can see all your great work!

Want to know more?

- For more on World Gorilla Day and gorilla conservation, go to: <https://gorillafund.org/>
- To learn more about cell phone recycling and Gorillas on the Line, visit: <https://zooatlanta.org/conservation-action/gorillas-on-the-line/>
- Visit Zoo Atlanta so see and learn more about western lowland gorillas!

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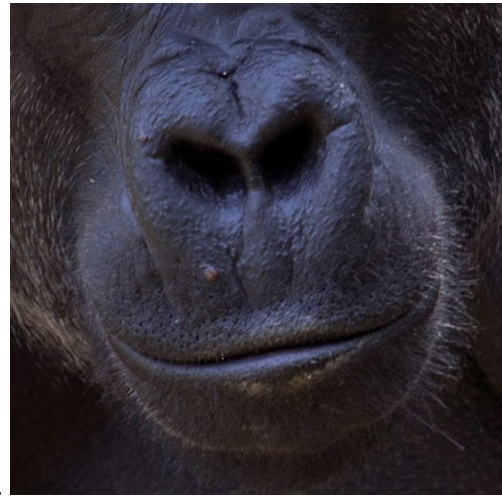
Know your Noses



Nose Prints:



A.



B.



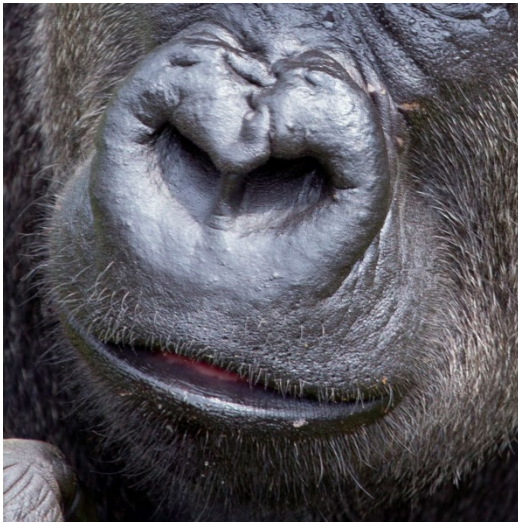
C.



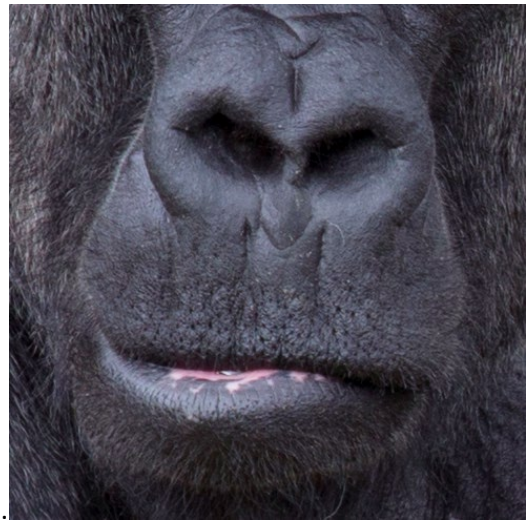
D.

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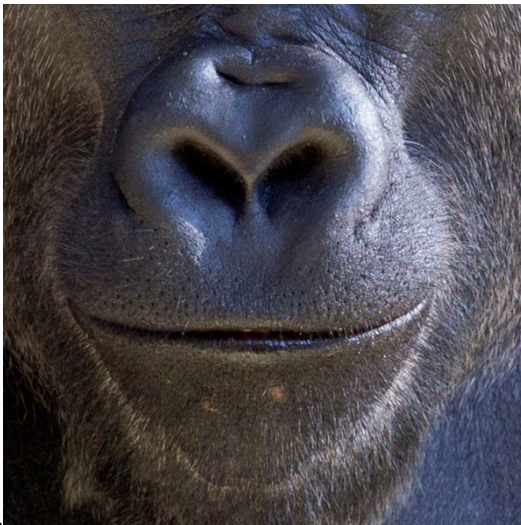
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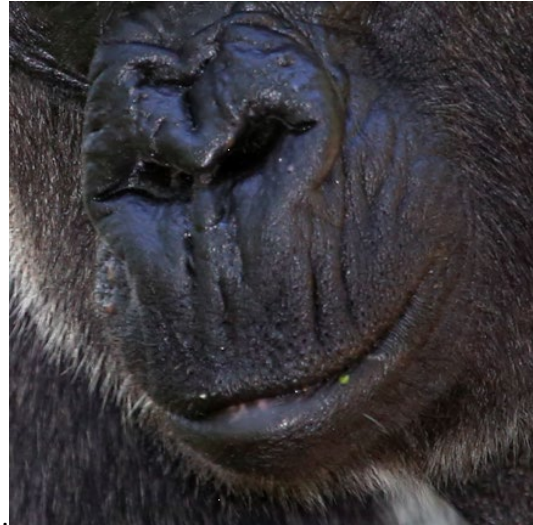
E.



F.



G.



H.

World Gorilla Day:

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Gorilla Profile Photos:



World Gorilla Day:

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Lulu



Choomba



Kudzoo



Jasiri
(no longer at ZA)