

## GORILLAS

Gorillas are the largest species of primates. The males are often twice as big as the females. The males grow to around 5 ½ feet tall and weigh around 400 pounds. The females grow to 4 ½ feet tall and weigh around 200 pounds.



Gorillas live in from swamps and forests. Some gorillas live in the mountains and other gorillas live in lowland forests. Gorillas live in small groups called **troops** or **bands**. The older males are called Silverback gorillas. Each troop has one dominant male Silverback, some female gorillas, and their offspring, or baby gorilla.

Gorillas are generally calm and passive animals, however, the Silverback will **defend** or protect his troop if he feels threatened or in danger.

Gorillas are mostly herbivores and eat plants. The plants they eat include leaves, stems pith, fruit, and bamboo. Sometimes they will eat insects, especially ants. A full-grown adult male will eat around 50 pounds of food in a day.



Gorillas **have long arms**, even longer than their legs! They **use their long arms** to "knuckle-walk". Like other apes, gorillas do not have a tail.



Gorillas have **hands and feet like humans** including thumbs and big toes. They are highly intelligent and have now been observed using tools in the wild.