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Communication sheet information Gorilla الملف

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**Complete the article with the sentences below. There is one extra sentence you don't need.**

- A** Some gorilla sounds are similar to those made by humans.
- B** This is a strong warning to the younger gorilla to go away.
- C** Gesture and sound aren't the only ways that gorillas communicate.
- D** So look out for them in the enclosure.
- E** Gorillas can often live up to the age of 40.
- F** Like humans, gorillas use facial expressions to show their emotions.



# GORILLA INFORMATION SHEET: COMMUNICATION

Gorillas share an amazing 98% of our DNA. Over the years scientists have studied the similarities between human and gorilla behavior, and in particular the ways they communicate.

## Why do gorillas hit their chests?

In the wild, gorillas often live in groups of four to ten, although these groups can be much bigger. Gestures are an important part of gorilla communication and they are often used to keep the social relationships in the group. For example, if a young male gorilla tries to start a fight with an older "silverback" male gorilla, then the silverback stands up and hits his chest quickly with his hands.

1

## Don't stare at the gorillas!

2

A gorilla shows fear by moving its eyes nervously from side to side and opening its mouth. Anger is shown by a long stare with the mouth shut and lips tightly pushed together. The consequence of this is that gorillas don't like being stared at by other gorillas, or humans!

## Do gorillas talk to each other?

Gorillas usually live in thick rainforests, so communication by sound is important because they often can't always see each other. Gorillas have excellent hearing and when they are on the move, they often make sounds to locate other members of the group at a distance. Researchers have identified between 20 and 25 different gorilla sounds and their meanings. These sounds include barks, grunts, shouts, and screams, and are sometimes used together with gestures. For example, when the male silverback beats his chest to warn off a younger male, he makes a very loud screaming noise at the same time. 3

When young gorillas play with each other they make a noise that sounds like a human laugh.

## How can gorillas warn of danger?

4

When gorillas travel through the rainforest, they always need to look out for predators and other dangers. If a silverback gorilla identifies a threat, they can give off a strong scent and secretly warn other gorillas without making a noise.

## Our study here at the zoo

This year, the research department at our zoo will do a detailed study into how gorillas communicate with each other, particularly at feeding time.

5

But don't worry, they won't be staring at the gorillas, they'll be quietly observing them from one side!

