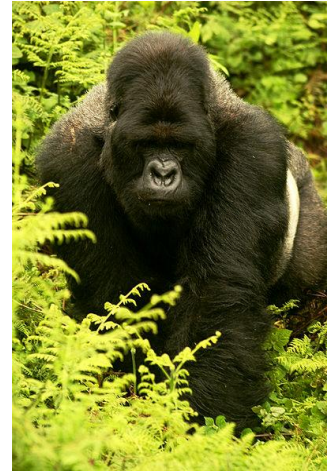


WORDS

- **although** = while
- **chest** = the front part of your body between your neck and your stomach
- **conservation** = the protection of something
- **disease** = illness
- **endangered** = in danger of dying out
- **establish** = set up, create
- **female** = connected to a woman
- **habitat** = the natural home of a plant or animal
- **height** = how tall something is
- **individual** = single animal
- **locals** = people who live in the area
- **male** = connected to a man
- **moisture** = water that is in the air or in plants or trees
- **muscular** = powerful, with a lot of muscles
- **occasion** = time, event
- **poacher** = someone who catches or shoots animals illegally, without permission
- **primarily** = mainly, mostly
- **protect** = defend, guard
- **rare** = not very often
- **rebel** = person or soldier who fights against the government
- **settlement** = towns and villages
- **shy** = nervous when you or get into contact with meet other people or animals
- **similar** = like
- **single gorillas** = one at a time
- **spread** = to pass on to others
- **survive** = to live, not to die
- **threaten** = to be in danger
- **wander** = walk around
- **weigh** = how heavy something is

Mountain gorillas are one of the most **endangered** animals in the world. Scientists think that there are only about 600 mountain gorillas left. They live in the higher regions of the rain forests in Rwanda, Uganda and Congo.

Mountain gorillas are strong, with long **muscular** arms and a big **chest**. They have thick black hair that **protects** them from the cold in high mountain regions. A large **male** gorilla may reach a **height** of almost 2 metres and a **weigh** about 200 kilograms.



Although they are very strong mountain gorillas are **shy** animals. They normally don't attack humans. Male gorillas lead groups of up to 40 **individuals**. These leaders are called silverbacks because of the gray hair they get when they grow old. The silverback **protects** the group, decides where to eat, rest and sleep.

Female mountain gorillas have few babies. During the 40 to 50 years that a **female** lives she gives birth to two to six babies. The first baby is born at about eight or ten. She then has further babies every three to four years. In most cases **single gorillas** are born, in **rare occasions** she gives birth to twins. Babies ride on their mother's back until they are two or three years old.

While mountain gorillas **wander** around during the daytime they look for safe places to sleep at night. Lighter ones sleep in trees while heavier mountain gorillas nest on the ground.

Mountain gorillas are **primarily** plant eaters. They need about 30 kilograms of vegetation every day to **survive**. They also eat insects and worms but **rarely** drink water because they have enough **moisture** in the plants.

Life for mountain gorillas, however, is not peaceful. They are **endangered** in many ways. More and more people are moving to live in the rain forests. There they burn down trees to get more farmland, build roads and **settlements**. The **habitat** of mountain gorillas is getting smaller and smaller.

Gorillas are also **threatened** by **poachers**, who sell babies to zoos or kill them for their meat.

Because the animals are **similar** to humans, **locals** and tourists often **spread diseases** when they get into contact with them.

Protecting the mountain gorillas is difficult because there are wars and other conflicts going on in these countries. **Rebels** and government soldiers often hide in the rain forests where the gorillas live.

Still many Africans are working hard to **protect** mountain gorillas. The African Wildlife Foundation has **established** a **conservation** program to save the last mountain gorillas.

1. Answer the questions

In which parts of the world do mountain gorillas live? _____

Describe their appearance, height and weight! _____

Are mountain gorillas dangerous to humans? _____

What are the leaders called? What is their job? _____

How long does a female mountain gorilla live? _____

How many babies can she have during her lifetime? _____

What do mountain gorillas eat? _____

Why don't they drink so much? _____

In which ways are mountain gorillas endangered? _____

What is the African Wildlife Foundation? _____



2. Explain in English

habitat _____

rain forest _____

locals _____

moisture _____

settlement _____

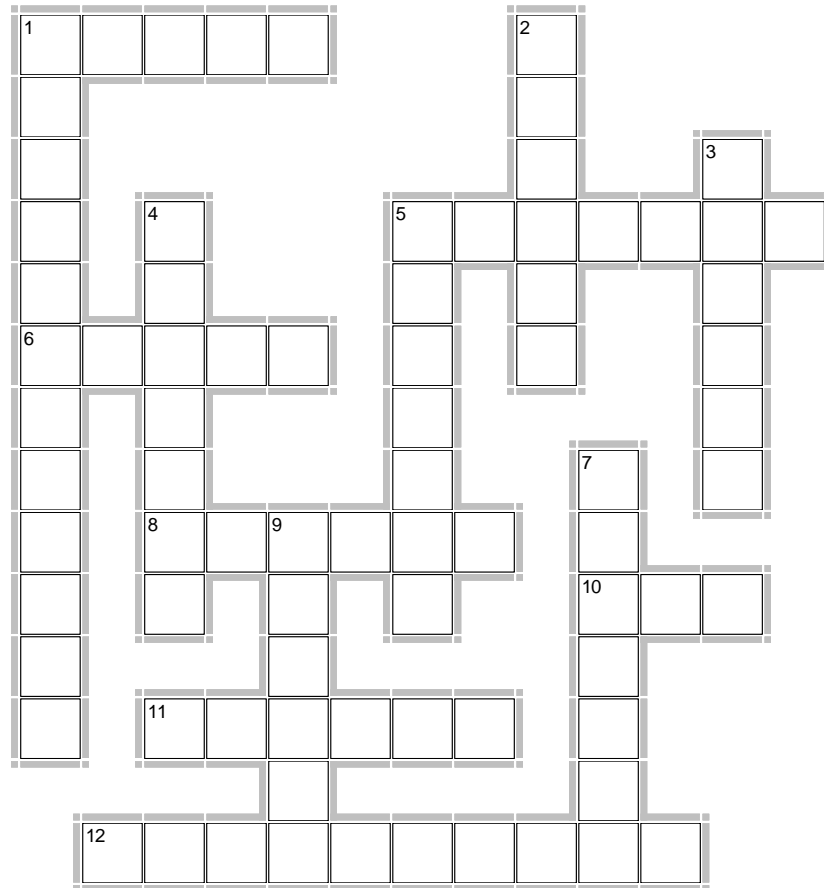
survive _____

threaten _____

3. True or False

	T	F
There are only about 600 mountain gorillas left in the world.		
Mountain gorillas are strong, but shy animals.		
They have thick black hair that poachers hunt for wool.		
Mountain gorillas threaten and attack humans.		
A female mountain gorilla can live to be 50 years old.		
A silverback is the youngest member of a group. He is protected by his mother.		
Gorillas usually wander around at night.		
Female gorillas have babies every year.		
Lighter mountain gorillas sleep in trees.		
Mountain gorillas eat mostly plants.		
The living areas of mountain gorillas are getting smaller all the time.		
People burn down the habitat of mountain gorillas because they spread diseases.		
There are many conflicts and wars in the region.		

4. Crossword



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. the front part of your body between your neck and your stomach
5. someone who shoots animals without permission
6. person or soldier who fights against the government
8. continent in which mountain gorillas live
10. nervous when you get into contact with other people or animals
11. to walk around without a real place to go
12. in danger of dying out

Down

1. the protection of a plant or animal from danger
2. connected to a woman
3. how tall something is
4. the natural home of a plant or animal
5. defend, guard
7. illness
9. one of the countries in which mountain gorillas live

Key

True or False

	T	F
There are only about 600 mountain gorillas left in the world.	✓	
Mountain gorillas are strong, but shy animals.	✓	
They have thick black hair that poachers hunt for wool.		✓
Mountain gorillas threaten and attack humans.		✓
A female mountain gorilla can live to be 50 years old.	✓	
A silverback is the youngest member of a group. He is protected by his mother.		✓
Gorillas usually wander around at night.		✓
Female gorillas have babies every year.		✓
Lighter mountain gorillas sleep in trees.	✓	
Mountain gorillas eat mostly plants.	✓	
The living areas of mountain gorillas are getting smaller all the time.	✓	
People burn down the habitat of mountain gorillas because they spread diseases.		✓
There are many conflicts and wars in the region.	✓	

Crossword

