



Our World with Chimpanzees!



Important Facts About Chimps

- Humans share 98.6% of DNA with chimps
- Chimps are classified as endangered, and they are extinct in 4 of their 25 range countries
- There are four different species of chimps
- Chimps are highly social creatures with social systems
- Chimps are important to our ecosystem

Why are Chimps Important?

- Chimps help maintain a level of biodiversity that keeps the ecosystem in balance (<https://www.wcs.org/our-work/species/chimpanzees>)
- Chimps are sentient beings that deserve to co-exist with humans and be protected
- Chimps are our closest ancestor



Interesting Facts About Chimps

- Female leave their native community to find mates to avoid inbreeding, which is the opposite of other mammals where males leave their native community
- Social hierarchies exist where males rise in rank by intimidation and winning physical altercations, while females tend to age up through the ranks.
- Males can be very aggressive and severely injure or even kill other chimps
- Chimp offspring stay with their mothers until around the age of 10
- Food sources include fruits, leaves, insects, bark, nuts, bush pigs, and monkeys
- Males have close bonds, which helps them to form alliances to protect their community from neighboring intruders, including potential predators
- Females exhibit "sexual swelling" to signal readiness for mating, which attracts males
- Higher ranking males mate more often than lower ranking males, resulting in more offspring
- Chimps can make and use tools, which differentiates them from most other others

Why are Chimps Endangered?

- Habitat destruction and fragmentation
 - Logging, mining, agriculture
- Hunting for bushmeat to eat or sell
- Diseases contracted by humans and other chimps
 - Ebola, SIV, mange, respiratory viruses
- Wildlife trade where adults are poached to obtain juvenile chimps for entertainment, etc.



How Can I Help Chimps?

- Educate your local community on the importance of conservation
- Start up a "Roots & Shoots" initiative at <https://www.rootsandshoots.org/>
- Identify animal images in videos for research at <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/sassydumbledore/chimp-and-see>

