

JANE GOODALL



Jane Goodall was born in London, England in 1934. As a child, she received a chimpanzee toy as a gift from her father. The toy, which she named Jubilee, still sits on top of her dresser today.

From childhood, Goodall was interested in animals and the country of Africa. At age 22, she visited a friend's farm in Kenya and there met archaeologist and paleontologist Dr. Louis Leakey. Impressed with her knowledge, Leakey hired Goodall as his assistant. At the time, chimpanzees were not well understood. Leakey believed the study of chimpanzees, which are related to humans, might lead to a better understanding of human evolution. Leakey asked Goodall to observe, or watch closely, a group of chimps living in Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, and she agreed.

The chimps were shy at first, and Goodall was discouraged when they fled from her. Soon, however, she discovered a place on top of a high peak, where she was able to observe the chimps through binoculars. She quickly began making important discoveries. Though chimps had been thought to be vegetarians, Goodall observed a male eating a bush pig and sharing it with a female. She discovered that chimps used tools when she saw two of them digging into a termite mound with sticks. The termites clung to the sticks when the chimps removed them from the mound, making for an easy snack. She published her observations in a book called *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior*. It was the first of many books she would write.

Goodall's observations of the chimpanzees of Gombe continued for 45 years. Today she works as a conservationist, someone who works to preserve natural resources and environments. She helps to save chimpanzee populations around the world through research and education.

VOCABULARY

Look at the text and define these key concepts:

Observe _____

Conservationist _____

What did Goodall name her toy chimpanzee?

How many years did she spend studying chimpanzees? _____

Take a few minutes at recess, lunch, or at home to sit quietly and observe your friends or family members. Write down the things you see happen below, as well as any other sounds, smells, or sights you experience. Did you notice anything surprising?
