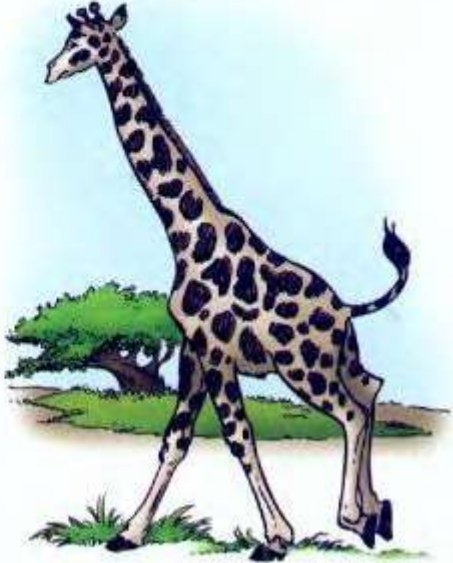


Giraffe

Giraffes are the tallest of all animals. They stand over 18 feet tall and weigh over 4,000 pounds. Even though their necks are so long, they have the same number of neck bones as other animals. Giraffes have sharp eyesight. They can see in all directions without moving their heads. Every giraffe has a different pattern of patches, just as every human has different fingerprints.



Giraffes live in herds on the dry grasslands in Africa. They mainly eat leaves from acacia (uh KAY shuh) trees, which are the most common trees in the area. Giraffes can go weeks without water. When they drink, giraffes spread apart their front legs and lower their long necks to reach the water.

Think and Learn

1. Giraffes are the _____ of all animals.
2. Compare the number of neck bones in giraffes to other animals. _____
3. What do giraffes eat? _____
4. How do giraffes bend down to get a drink? _____

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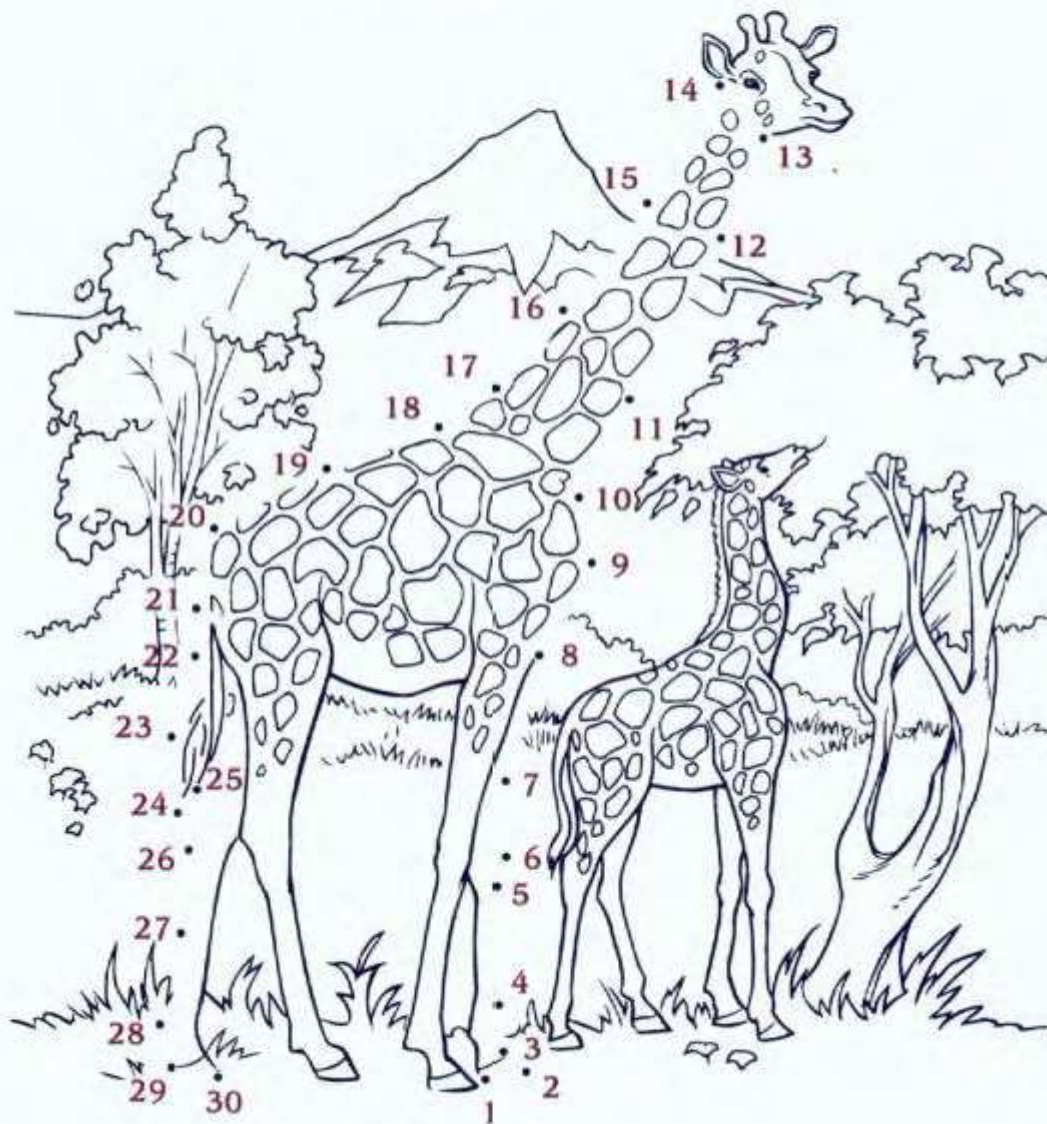
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Africa



Dot-to-Dot

Connect the dots. Color the picture.



Chimpanzee

Chimpanzees (chihm pan ZEEZ) belong to the ape family. They are found in rainforests in Africa. Like apes, they can walk on two feet. However, they prefer to move about on all four legs like monkeys do. Chimpanzees have hands that look like human hands, but their thumbs are shorter. Chimpanzees eat fruit, leaves and insects.



Chimpanzees are one of the few animals that make and use tools. To get termites, chimpanzees trim sticks and put them inside termite hills. Then, they eat the termites that cling to the stick. Chimpanzees also build platforms in trees for sleeping. To communicate, or "talk," to each other, chimpanzees use different sounds.

Think and Learn

1. Is a chimpanzee a monkey or an ape? _____
2. Where are chimpanzees found? _____

3. What do chimpanzees eat? _____
4. What can chimpanzees do that most other animals cannot do? _____

Gorilla

The gorilla is the largest member of the ape family. Adult males grow to 6 feet in height and weigh 400 pounds. Females are smaller. Gorillas have broad chests, wide shoulders, long arms and short legs. Their entire body, except for the face, is covered with dark fur. Gorillas are peaceful animals that live in family groups. An adult male always leads the group. Females and their babies make up the rest of the group.



Gorillas are found in different parts of central Africa. Some live in mountain forests. Others live in forests on low ground. Gorillas spend most of the day eating leaves and fruit. At night, gorillas build sleeping platforms on the ground or in trees.

Think and Learn

1. Gorillas belong to the _____ family.
2. What makes up a gorilla family group? _____
3. Where are gorillas found? _____
4. Where do gorillas sleep? _____

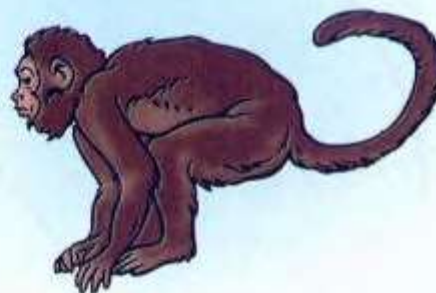


Apes and Monkeys

Apes and monkeys are the animals most closely related to humans. Apes and monkeys are different. Monkeys have tails. Apes do not. Apes have larger brains than monkeys. Larger brains allow for more difficult actions.



Even though they are different, apes and monkeys are alike in some ways. Both monkeys and apes can stand up on two legs. This keeps their hands free to do some kind of task. They both have hands and feet that look like human hands. Their hands and feet have "thumbs" that move in opposite directions to their fingers. This action lets apes and monkeys use their hands and feet to pick up things and hold them.



Think and Learn

1. Label the monkey and the ape in the picture.
2. In what ways are monkeys and apes different? _____

3. How are monkeys and apes similar? _____

