

OBSERVING GORILLAS!

Animal behavior includes anything an animal does and how it interacts with others or its environment. Scientists learn many things from observing and recording animal behaviors.

The team at GRACE observe and record what the gorillas are doing daily. This includes what the gorillas are eating, who they are spending time with, and how they are using their habitat. Making observations helps the caregivers provide excellent care for the gorillas at GRACE and learn more about gorillas in general.

NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN!

- 1) Visit the GRACE Gorillas channel on Explore.org (explore.org/gorillas). Watch the Live feed or highlights.
- 2) Look for gorilla behaviors, such as eating, playing, resting, walking, climbing, or grooming.
- 3) Each time you see one of these behaviors, put a mark in the chart.
- 4) If you see a behavior that's not listed, add it to the blank rows at the bottom.
- 5) Repeat Steps 1-4 as many times as you'd like. You may see something new or different to observe and record.

GRACE stands for the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center. It is located in the Democratic Republic of Congo. GRACE is the only sanctuary in the world for rescued Grauer's gorillas. All of the gorillas at GRACE were orphaned from poaching.



Share what you've learned about gorillas with family and friends!

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Visit [explore.org/gorillas](https://www.explore.org/gorillas) to observe the GRACE Gorillas in their forest habitat. Record each behavior you see using the chart below. Use the blank spaces to add additional behaviors that you observe.

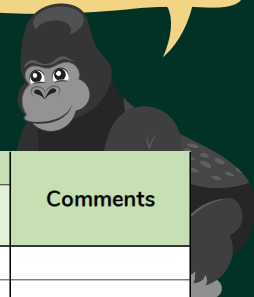
BEHAVIOR	NUMBER OF TIMES OBSERVED	COMMENTS
 <p>Eating</p>		
 <p>Resting</p>		
 <p>Climbing</p>		
 <p>Playing</p>		
 <p>Walking</p>		
 <p>Nesting</p>		
<p>Add a behavior:</p>		
<p>Add a behavior:</p>		

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GORILLA ETHOGRAM

For advanced observers, visit explore.org/gorillas and use this **ethogram** to record detailed gorilla behaviors (for example, gorilla feeding on leaves, gorilla feeding on pith, resting in contact with others, resting away from the group). Fill out the behaviors you expect to see at the top of the chart. Use a stopwatch to mark the behavior(s) you see every 30 seconds. Conduct your observations on different days and times. Use your records to compare and contrast how gorilla behaviors change with weather, season, time of day, etc.

Check out the "Weather" button on the Explore.org page for current information on the weather in DR Congo!



Species		Weather conditions:	
Date:			
Time:		Other relevant factors:	

Time (mins)	Gorilla Behaviors								Other (describe behavior below)	Comments
0:00										
0:30										
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