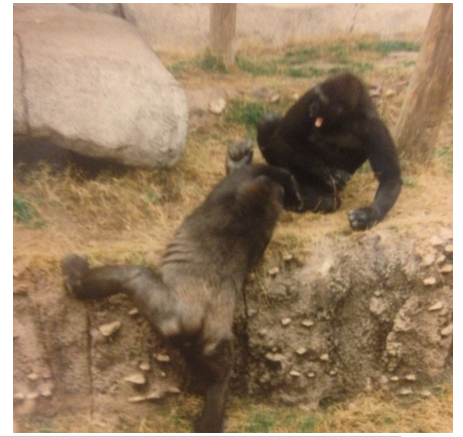


# Western Gorilla

## *Gorilla gorilla*



**Range:** Nigeria to Zaire

**Size:** ♂: 170cm (67 in)  
♀: 150 cm (59 in)

**Weight:** ♂ 169kg (373lbs)  
♀ 71.5 kg (157 lbs)

**Tail:** no tail

**Habitat:** dense forest

**Estrus cycle:** 25-42 days

**Estrus length:** 2-3 days

**Gestation:** 237-285 days

**Litter:** 1

**Weaning:** 52 months

**Sexual maturity:** ♂ 120 months  
♀ 78 months

**Social:** 1 male multi- female  
**Breeding**

**Circadian:** crepuscular

**Food:** fruit leaves termites

**IUCN:** Critically endangered

**Subspecies:** 2

**Longevity:** captive: 55 wild: 30

**Order: Primates Family: Hominidae**

The largest living primate, gorillas are day-active forest dwellers that feed on fruit, leaves, stems, and seeds as well as termites. At night they bend tree twigs and branches to form a sleeping nest. Living in small stable groups of 3 to 20 with strong bonds between the silverback (dominant male) and the females with offspring, the western gorilla uses a wide range of facial expressions, body gestures and sounds to communicate.

There are two subspecies of western gorilla: the Cross Rivers Gorilla *G. g. diehli* and the western lowland Gorilla *G. g. gorilla*. The Cross Rivers Gorilla is restricted to forested hills and mountains of the Cameroon-Nigeria border region at the headwaters of the Cross River.