

Jane Goodall



Early Life

When she was a little girl, instead of buying her a teddy bear, Jane's father gave her a cuddly chimpanzee. She called it Jubilee. Jane says this is what first inspired her to work with animals. Years later, after a lifetime of working with chimpanzees, Jane still has Jubilee!

Name: Jane Goodall

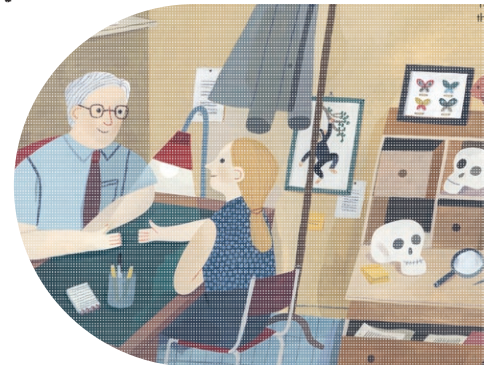
Dates: Born 3rd
April 1934

Place of Birth:
Hampstead, London

Famous For: being a primatologist (a natural scientist specialising in primates) who studied the social and family interactions of chimpanzees in the wild.

Africa

When she was 23 (in 1957), Jane travelled to Kenya in Africa to work on a friend's farm. She met Louis Leakey, a scientist who studied chimpanzees and other apes. Jane agreed to work for Louis and began learning all about the animals. With his support, she established a camp in the Gombe Stream Game Reserve so that she could study the behaviour of chimpanzees in their natural habitat. In recognition of this work, Jane was awarded a PhD in ethology from Cambridge University - one of a very few people to get one without first having completed a degree.



Results of Jane's Study

Jane was so good at understanding chimpanzees and made lots of new discoveries. These are some of the things she learnt:

Chimpanzees Use Tools

One day, Jane watched a chimpanzee putting a blade of grass into a termite nest. When he pulled it out, there were lots of termites on it, which the chimp then ate. It was the first time anyone had seen an animal - other than humans - use something as a tool.

Illustrated by: Beatrice Cerocchi

Chimpanzees Eat Meat

As well as eating plants, Jane found out chimpanzees work together to hunt other animals. Before that, scientists thought chimps were herbivores but they are now classed as omnivores.

Chimpanzees Are All Different and Can Feel Things

Because Jane worked so closely with the chimpanzees, she noticed that not all of them behaved in the same way. Some of them were loud; others were quiet. Some were mean while others were kind. In fact, Jane discovered that chimpanzees were a lot like humans – she even noticed them showing emotions, such as happiness, sadness and anger.

Did you know?

Chimpanzees aren't monkeys. They are part of the ape family, which includes gorillas and orangutans.

Jane's Special Way

One of Jane's ideas was to give the chimpanzees names. Other scientists at the time just gave the chimps numbers but Jane was different. She named one of the chimpanzees David Greybeard because he had such a grey chin! There were other interesting names too, including Gigi, Goliath, Mr McGregor, Flo and Frodo. Giving the chimps names helped Jane get to know and understand them better.

Later Life

After Jane left Africa, she was determined to save the chimpanzees from extinction. She learnt that the survival of the species was threatened by the destruction of their habitat and by people buying and selling chimpanzees illegally. In 1977, she set up an organisation called the Jane Goodall Institute which educates and enables others to follow her example to save the natural world.



Jane has written a number of books which record her work over the years. She continued to write and give speeches about the environment and conservation until very recently. She has received lots of prestigious awards, including becoming a UN Messenger of Peace (2002), Dame Commander of the British Empire - DBE (2003) and the Templeton Prize, which is given to someone who has “made an exceptional contribution to affirming life’s spiritual dimension, whether through insight, discovery, or practical works.” (2021)

