

# Chimpanzees: *fast.facts*

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- ◆ The scientific name for the chimpanzee is: ***Pan*** (all) ***troglydytes*** (cave dwellers).
  - ◆ Chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than they are even to gorillas.
  - ◆ Chimpanzees have a gestation of 8 months, live up to 60 years, and create family bonds that last a lifetime, even dying of grief when separated from a loved one.
  - ◆ In the wild chimpanzees have a complex communication system; in captivity they are able to learn American Sign Language and other symbol languages.
  - ◆ Chimpanzees are very social primates that use facial expressions, vocalizations, body language, grooming, and even kisses and pats to communicate with members of their group.
  - ◆ Young chimps learn to create tools from objects in their environment by watching others; they use sticks to extract termites to eat and crumple leaves to soak up water to drink.
  - ◆ Just like people, mother chimpanzees often develop lifelong relationships with their offspring.
  - ◆ Young chimps and young baboons sometimes play together when they meet in the forest.
  - ◆ By following wild chimps through the forests, scientists discovered that chimps use medicinal plants to treat themselves for illness and injury.
  - ◆ Because chimpanzees closely resemble humans, studying their behavior and biology may provide great insight for solving the mysteries of our own ancestry and social development.
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