

Physical adaptations

Powerful and well-adapted body

Shape

Gorillas have longer arms than legs. Arm muscles are bigger, which allows them to break branches and plants.

An adult gorilla's upper body strength is 6 times or more powerful than that of an adult human!

Hands and feet

Gorillas' sturdy fingers help support their body weight when knuckle-walking.

Thumb and big toe oppose other digits, enabling gorillas to grasp and manipulate objects. *Gorillas have nails and not claws!*

Head

Gorillas have massive heads with a high sagittal crest. The head supports the large temporal muscles needed to grind hard plants.

Gorillas have a protuberant forehead overhanging the eyes. This distinctive shape helps protect their eyes.

Ears

Hearing helps gorillas locate one another and detect danger.

As their visibility is restricted by rainforests, dense vegetation, hearing is very important.

Eyes

Gorillas have good eyesight, which is used for finding food and detecting movements.

As they are active only during daytime, they can see color, which is very useful for finding ripe fruits in treetops!

Nose

Gorillas have a good sense of smell and are able to detect strong odors such as human sweat or the musk of an unknown gorilla.

Teeth

Like humans, gorillas have 32 teeth. *An adult male gorilla can eat 20 kg of vegetation each day!*

