

Text Features

Finding Important Information in Books and Passages

In the 4th and 5th grades, children need to read and understand information in books and passages for their subjects in school, such as science and geography. Text features help them notice what is important, learn more about what they have read, and go back to find information. Children need to learn what these text features are and how to use them to get the most out of the text they are reading.

Text Features

Not all books and passages have all the text features listed below. For example, books often have a Table of Contents, but passages seldom do. It could be helpful to watch the video that shows these text features and a parent and child playing the game described below. Find instructions to get to the video at the end of this tip sheet.

Some of the main text features are:

Title of Book or Passage:	What this text is about
Table of Contents:	List of the contents with page numbers where each section begins, found in front
Headings:	Main ideas and divisions within text
Subheadings:	Ideas under a main heading
Tables and Charts:	Provide information in easy-to-see format
Pictures:	Help you see what things in the text look like
Captions:	Information under pictures that explains what they are
Bulleted Items and Lists:	Call attention to specific points for the reader
Glossary:	Definitions of words used in text
Index:	Alphabetical list of topics with page numbers



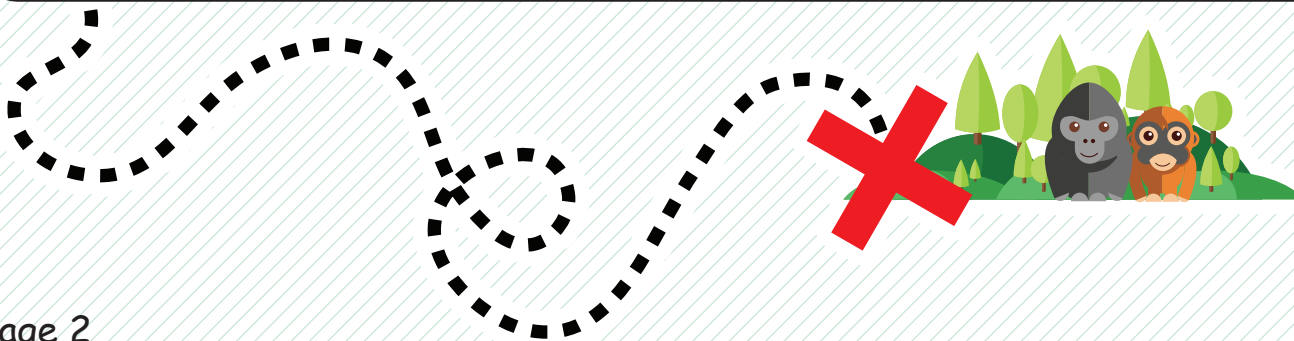
Journey to the Land of the Apes

This activity includes the passage: Great Apes: What Makes Them Great? You will need the passage, the Child's Land of the Apes Game Sheet, the Parents' Land of the Apes Question and Answer Sheet, and a penny to play the game.

When ready to do the activity with your child, sit down where you can both see Great Apes: What Makes Them Great? Have your child read the passage to you. Then, ask him the questions on the Question and Answer Sheet for Parents one at a time. Have him find the answers in the Great Apes: What Makes Them Great? passage.

Scoring. There are from one to six points possible for each question. Have your child move his penny forward on the Game Sheet each time he gets a correct answer, one space per point. It will take 22 points to reach the Land of the Apes but if you keep going your child can help feed the apes. After going through all of the questions, if your child gets between 23 and 28 points, he earns one banana for every ape in the land. If he gets between 29 and 34 points, he can give six bananas to every ape in the land. If he gets between 36 and 40 points, he can plant a banana tree for every ape in the land!

If your child does not know an answer, you can give him clues and hints. When you are finished, see how far along the path your child got. If he is interested, you can do the activity again until he gets all the way to the end of the path.





Bonus Points

The first twelve questions are about text features, such as headings and the glossary. The last four Bonus Point Questions help your child think carefully about this story and learn to: 1) make inferences, 2) contrast information, 3) compare information, and 4) make predictions. These are difficult skills for some children to learn.

Inferences are ideas the child figures out through reasoning when the answers aren't specifically given in the text- conclusions or deductions.

Contrasts are ways things are different from one another. Talking about contrasts shows your child's ability to think about how two or more things are different.

Comparisons show the child's ability to think about how things are similar or the same.

Predictions show your child's ability to figure out what will happen next. They are educated guesses.

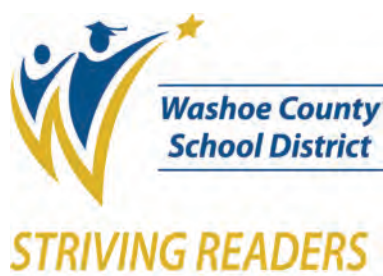


Watch Families Doing Activities

To see families doing these activities, please go to: www.washoestrivingreaders.com. Next, click on the Family Literacy Videos tab at the top of the page. Then, scroll down the page and click on the video that goes with this tip sheet. Other tip sheets and videos are there as well.

More Ideas

If you and your child enjoy these activities, tell your child's teacher. The teacher may have more ideas to share for learning fun at home. If your child is having a hard time with these activities, you can also talk to your child's teacher. There may be another tip sheet or other activities to help.



University of Nevada
Cooperative Extension

The University of Nevada, Reno is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, age, creed, national origin, veteran status, physical or mental disability, and sexual orientation in any program or activity it operates. The University of Nevada employs only United States citizens and aliens lawfully authorized to work in the United States.



Great Apes: What Makes Them Great?

Words To Understand

Ape	Chimpanzee
Gorilla	Bonobo
Orangutan	Scientist

What Are Great Apes?

Great apes are the largest **primates** in the world. Gorillas, orangutans, bonobos, and chimpanzees are all types of great apes. Great apes do not have tails, and their arms are longer than their legs. They have much larger, more developed brains than monkeys.

Meet The Great Apes

Ape	Maximum Height of Males	Maximum Weight of Males	Color
Gorilla	6 ft.	450 lbs.	Black
Orangutan	5 ft.	180 lbs.	Orange-brown
Chimpanzee	5 ½ ft.	130 lbs.	Mostly black
Bonobo	4 ft.	95 lbs.	Mostly black

Gorillas

The gorilla is the largest **primate**. A male gorilla can weigh as much as 450 pounds and stand up to 5½ feet tall. Most gorillas live in groups of 6 to 12 led by a male who decides when they will wake up, eat, move, and rest for the night. Gorillas eat leaves, fruits, seeds, bark and flowers. They construct a nest of leaves to sleep in each night. Gorillas are shy, but some have been taught sign language by **scientists**. Most gorillas live in Africa.

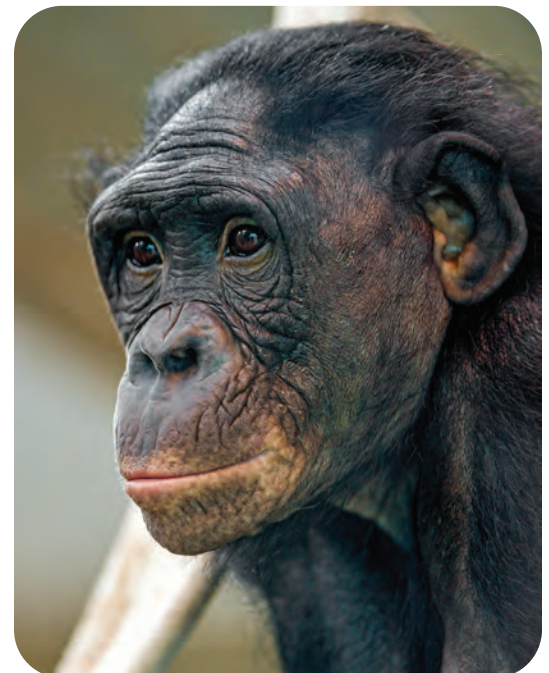


Orangutans

The orangutan has very long arms. That's because it lives mostly in trees. When it stands up, its arms nearly touch the ground. Orangutans live in a **rainforest**, and they use leaves as an umbrella. They eat fruits, insects, and birds eggs. Except when their babies are young, Orangutans live alone. **Scientists** have seen orangutans untie knots in ropes, get onto rafts or boats, shove off, and ride the rafts across rivers. They live in Asia.

Bonobos

The bonobo is the smallest great ape. Bonobos are sometimes called "little chimps," but they walk on 2 feet more often than **chimps**. They are sensitive and intelligent animals. They like to eat fruit, but they also eat flowers, seeds, and small animals. They are the most **vocal** of the apes, and they will make calls and squeals to tell other bonobos where to find their favorite food. They have pink lips and black faces. They live in sub-groups of 2 - 15 and in large communities of up to 120. Bonobos, like gorillas and chimpanzees, live in Africa.



Chimpanzees

Chimpanzees are very smart and interesting animals. They use tools more than any other animal does - except humans. A **chimp** might use a stone to crack open a nut. **Chimps** eat many foods, such as fruits, nuts, seeds and insects. They live with a family of 3 - 6. Chimpanzee families live in communities of about 50 animals, led by one male. **Chimps** live in Africa.



Studies about Chimps

Scientists have studied chimpanzees because they are so interesting. The **scientists** did tests that show that **chimps** often help people or other chimps, even if they get nothing in return.

A Helping Hand

In one test, a person dropped a stick near a group of chimpanzees. In most cases, a **chimp** handed the stick back to the person. Chimpanzees care about other **chimps** too. In another test, a **chimp** handed over the stick when another **chimp** dropped it. The animals did not receive food or praise for their actions in either test.

Born to Be Helpful?

The results surprised the **scientists**. They had long thought that humans are the only animals that help others. "We've never seen this level of cooperation in any other animals except humans," says chimpanzee **scientist** Alicia Melis. Cooperation means working together.

Saving The Great Apes

All the apes are **endangered**. Their numbers are shrinking for many reasons, such as the destruction of **rainforests** where they live, hunting them for their meat, and diseases like Ebola that make them sick. It would be tragic to lose these interesting and intelligent animals.

Glossary

Chimps: Chimpanzees

Endangered: May disappear from earth. May all die or be killed.

Primates: A group of animals. A member of the most highly developed order of animals, such as humans and apes.

Rainforest: A forest where it rains a lot. Each year rainforests get 98 to 177 inches of rain.

Scientist: A specialist in science who is trained to study things carefully.

Vocal: making sounds, like talking.

Index

Apes 1, 2, 3

Bonobos 1, 2

Chimpanzees 1, 2, 3

Cooperation 3

Endangered 3

Gorillas 1, 2

Helping Others 3

Orangutans 1, 2

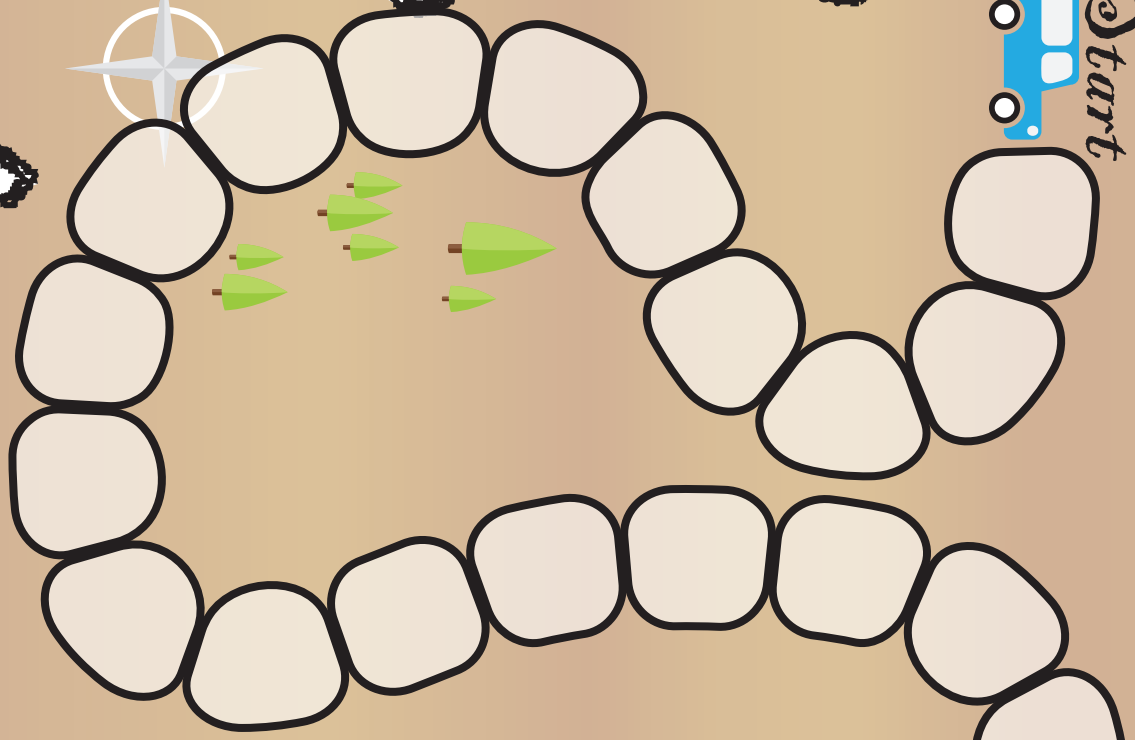
Primate 1, 2

Scientists 1, 2, 3

Tails 1

Journey to the Land of the Apes

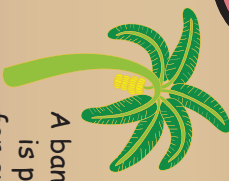
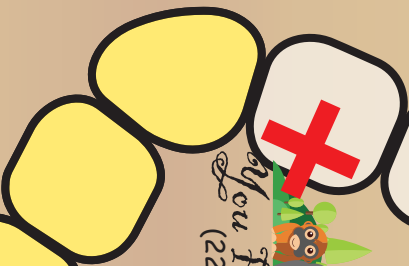
Start 



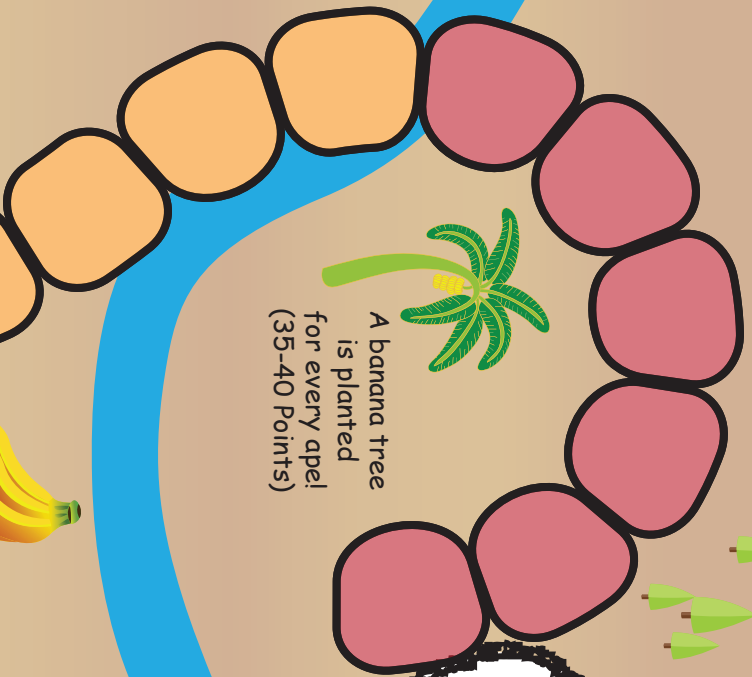
You Found It!
(22 Points)



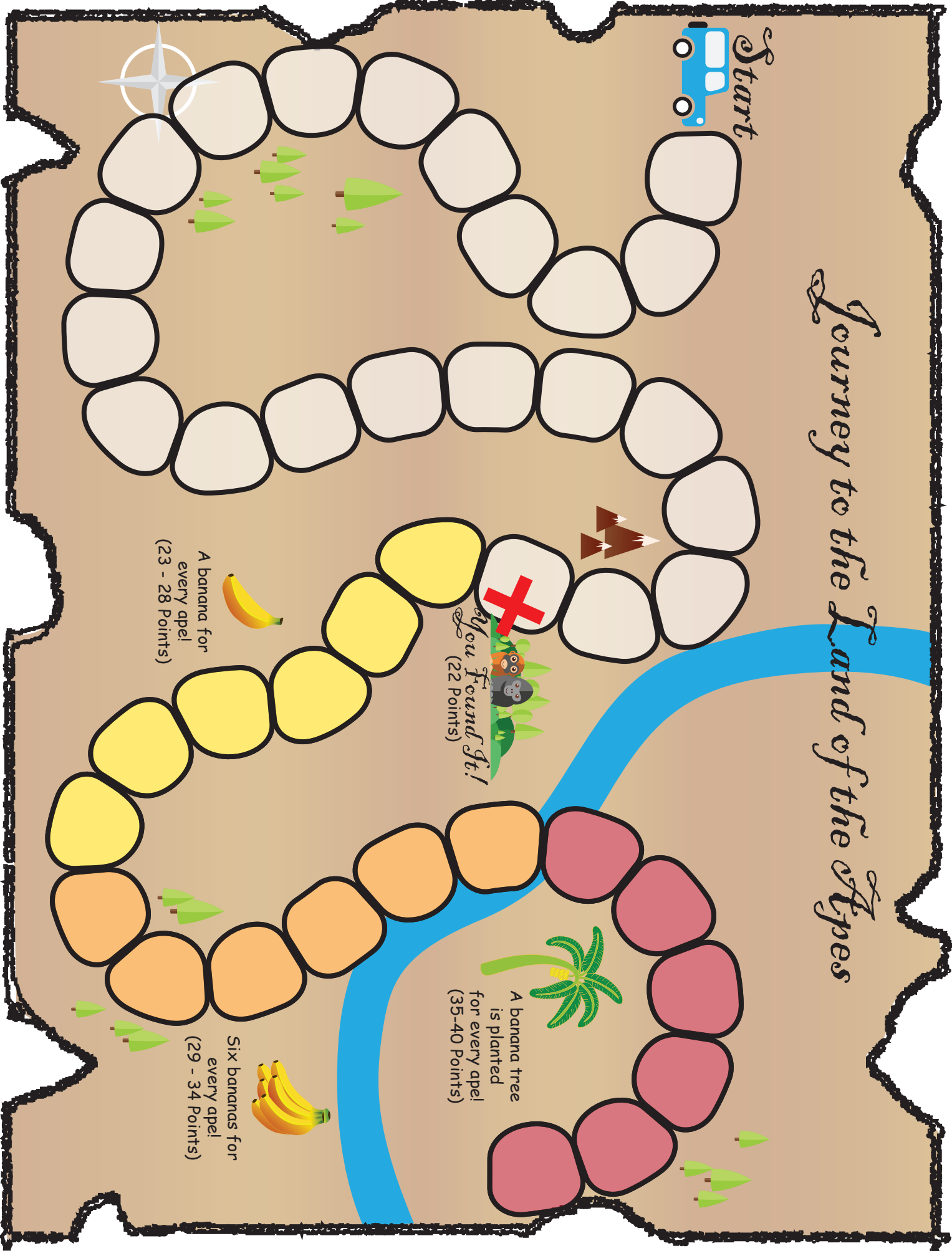
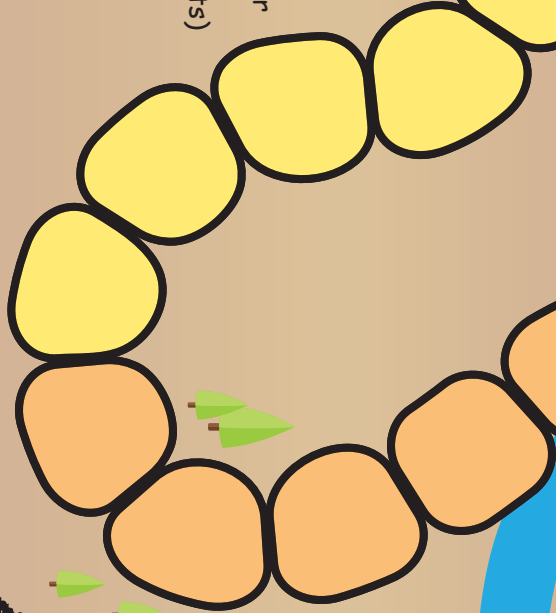
A banana for
every ape!
(23 - 28 Points)



A banana tree
is planted
for every ape!
(35-40 Points)



Six bananas for
every ape!
(29 - 34 Points)



Journey to the Land of the Apes

Question and Answer Sheet for Parents

Read each question to your child. The answers are in red underneath. Some questions are worth 1 point while others are worth up to 6 points. Depending on the number of correct answers your child gives, have him move a penny that many spaces on his game sheet. For example, if he gets 4 out of 6 answers right on question 2, he would move his coin 4 spaces.



1

Find the title of this passage and read it to me.
(1 point for correct answer)

Great Apes: What Makes Them Great?

points:

1

2

Find 6 Headings in the passage and point to them.
(6 points. 1 for each correct answer)

- *What Are Great Apes*
- *Bonobos*
- *Gorillas*
- *Chimpanzees*
- *Orangutans*
- *Saving the Great Apes*

points:

6

3

Look at the heading for Chimpanzees. Read the subheadings to me.
Hint: See how the subheadings are indented (moved in) underneath the heading, Chimpanzees.

(3 points. 1 for each correct answer)

- *Studies About Chimps*
- *A Helping Hand*
- *Born to Be Helpful?*

points:

3

4

Tell me how subheadings are different from headings
(2 points. Give 0 to 2 points, depending on how complete the answer is)

Subheadings tell you the main points under the heading. In this case, the subheadings are about studies about chimpanzees, not the other apes.

points:

2

5

Point to the table and ask, "What can you tell me about apes by looking at this table?"

(4 points, 1 for each correct answer)

- Names of the four Great Apes
- Weight of the males
- Height of the males
- Color of the apes

points:

4

6

"Tell me which is the tallest ape."

Have your child use the table to find out.

(1 point)

Gorilla

points:

1

7

"Tell me which ape weighs the least." points:

Have your child use the table to find out.

(1 point)

Bonobo

points:

1

8

Point to the picture of the orangutan and ask, "What can you tell about orangutans by looking at this picture?"

(4 points, 1 for each correct answer)

- Orangutans live in trees.
- They are an orange-brown color.
- They have long arms.
- They can hang onto branches with their hands and feet.

points:

4

9

Find the Glossary. Tell me how a glossary could help you understand a story or passage.

(3 points. 1 point for finding the glossary, 2 points for explaining how the glossary is helpful)

The Glossary is on page 4.

Glossaries have definitions for words that you may not know.

points:

3



10

Tell me what a rainforest is.

(1 point)

Your child can read the definition in the glossary or explain a rainforest in her own words.

points:

1

11

Tell me what else is on the last page of this passage.

(1 point)

The Index

points:

1



12

Tell me how the index could help if you were trying to find out something about Bonobos.

(1 points)

The index tells you where to find information about Bonobos. In this passage, information about Bonobos is in the table on page 1 and then more information is given on page 2.

points:

1

Bonus Questions

13

Explain what the science experiments tell you about whether chimps are selfish or not.
(3 points. Give 0 to 3 points, depending on how complete the answer is)

Chimps are unselfish. They help people and other chimps even when they get no reward for helping.

points:

3

14

Tell me how orangutans are different from gorillas.
(4 points. 1 for each correct answer)

- *Orangutans are smaller than gorillas.*
- *They live in Asia while gorillas live in Africa.*
- *They are orange-brown while gorillas are black.*
- *They have longer arms than gorillas.*

points:

4

15

Although apes are different in some ways, they are the same in other ways. Tell me four ways that the apes are alike.

(4 points. 1 for each correct answer)

- *They are all smart.*
- *They are all endangered.*
- *They are big.*
- *None of them has a tail.*

points:

4

16

Imagine that a bonobo was hungry. Suddenly she heard another bonobo calling loudly. Tell me what she would do.
(3 points. Give 0 to 3 points, depending on how complete the answer is)

Since bonobos let others know when they have found food, she would follow the sound to the other bonobo, hoping to find food.

points:

3



You Found It!