

# Great Apes

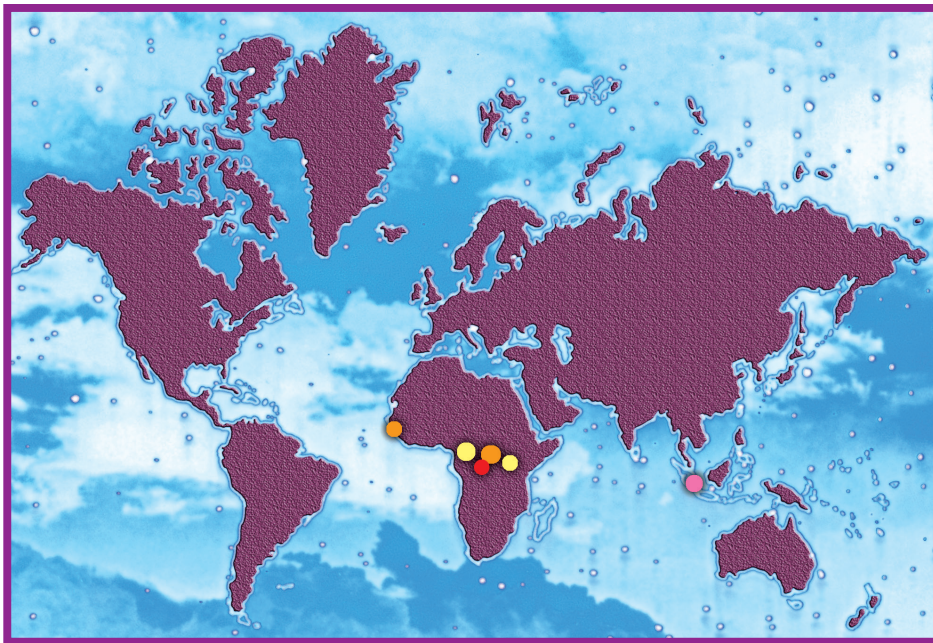
# 4

The number **4** is featured throughout *Great Apes*. Counting to four, finding fours, identifying sets of four, and learning to connect symbols with numerical concepts is great practice for growing children who are learning their numbers and early math skills. How many **4**s and groups of **4** can you and your child locate together throughout these pages?

# Aa

*Great Apes* features the “**long a**” sound (ā). Learning to identify letters and phonemes is key to developing early reading skills. Long vowels are easy to find—they’re the vowels that say their names, as “**a**” does in *ape*. But lots of other letter combinations say the “**long a**” sound, too, such as *great*, *way*, *maid*, or even *neighbor*. You can focus on listening for the “**long a**” sound as you read together.

## Where in the WORLD?



● **Chimpanzees** ● **Bonobos** ● **Gorillas** ● **Orangutans**

## Reading Resource

Every title in the *Ranger Rick Zootles* series is designed to be used for fun and learning, and as a reading resource as well. The pages are written simply and address various stages of emerging literacy, and they encourage new readers to exercise their new skills at just the right level. Reading *Ranger Rick Zootles* together will provide “together time” for you and your child—and reinforce vocabulary, comprehension, and early reading skills, too.

## It's a ZOO out there!

Great apes can be fun to watch. If you're fortunate enough to live near a zoo that has a spacious, humane ape habitat, your family may enjoy a trip there after reading *Great Apes*. You'll reinforce learning and encourage careful observation if you look for these ape characteristics and behaviors:

- Toes on the apes' feet
- Walking on two feet or all fours
- Playing, sleeping, climbing, and looking for food
- Communicating with faces, sounds, or body language

# How to Draw an Ape!

# 4

You can draw an ape by drawing simple shapes first. Just follow the 4 steps below to draw 4 great apes!

**Chimp**

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**Bonobo**

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**Orangutan**

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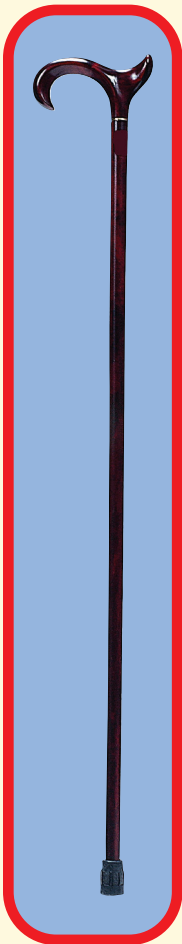
**Gorilla**

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# Great "A"s!

# Aa

Great Apes has two "long a" sounds, one in *great* and one in *apes*. Can you find **4** items on this page that have a "long a" sound in their names?



Now can you find the item that *begins* with a "long a" sound?

## What ELSE can we DO?

- **Thiiiiiiiis Big!** Great apes' arms are longer than their legs.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Ask your child which he thinks are longer, his arms or his legs. Then measure them to find out!
- **Thiiiiiiiis Big! (part 2)** Great apes also have very big hands. An adult male gorilla's hand can be 12 inches long, 7 inches wide, and even hold a basketball!
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Trace your child's hands on a piece of paper, and then measure them from wrist to fingertips and across the palm. How much smaller is your child's hand than a gorilla's?
- **Ape Treats (p. 4)** Many of the foods we eat every day come from the rain forest.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Gather some rain forest groceries (in this case, bananas, chocolate, coconut, and cinnamon) to make your own ape treats! First, melt a square of semi-sweet chocolate. Then slice a banana lengthwise and spread the melted chocolate on the flat side. Sprinkle with coconut and cinnamon before the chocolate cools, and enjoy!
- **Gone Fishing! (p. 6)** In the photograph on page 6, a chimpanzee is using a long piece of grass to pull insects from a termite mound.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Put some raisins or nuts in a glass or cup, dip a drinking straw in honey, and use your "insect-catching stick" to catch and eat some "insects"!
- **What Did You Say? (p. 6)** Great apes don't talk to one another, but they do communicate in lots of nonverbal ways.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Explore the body language you use to tell one another "I'm hungry," "I'm happy," or "I missed you!" Then take turns sending other

Allie:  
An intrepid  
hedgehog



Otto:  
An adventure-  
loving otter

nonverbal messages to one another and guessing what they mean.

- **Going Ape (p. 10)** Gorillas do most of their walking on all fours, as shown on page 10.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Imitate the gorilla's knuckle-walk. Most apes move more quickly on all fours than they do on two feet—how quickly can you go?
- **Neat Feet (p. 11)** Great apes have thumbs on their feet, and can use them to climb, hold things, and even pick up things.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Using a bucket and 6 blocks, take turns trying to pick up the blocks with your feet and put the blocks into the bucket.
- **Treetop Sleep (p. 12-15)** In "Kimo Builds a Night Nest," a young gorilla learns to build a sleeping nest.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Gather some blankets and pillows and build your own night nest! Then climb in, like Kimo and Singa, and read the story together.
- **Be a Backyard Scientist! (inside back cover)** Grab some binoculars, a camera, or a magnifying glass, and head out to a natural area near your home.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Practice good observation skills together: sit still, keep very quiet, listen closely, and always observe wildlife from a safe distance.
- **Do You See What I See?** Both "You Can Be A Scientist, Too!" and "The Adventures of Otto and Allie" show people using binoculars.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Find a pair of binoculars and head outside. Introduce your child to the way binoculars work, including magnification and focus. Take a closer look at some neighborhood birds and squirrels!
- **Family Bonding (back cover)** Ape families spend a lot of time together, and grooming is an important part of their social structure. In "The Adventures of Otto and Allie," Otto and Allie watch chimpanzees groom one another, and then try it for themselves.
- **ZOOTLES TO-DO:** Cut out several small pieces of construction paper and tape them to your shirts or sweaters. Then pretend they are bugs and dirt, and have fun picking them off of one another! Among great apes, grooming reinforces family bonds—it's sure to bring some fun to your house, too!