

Orangutans

Photo by Cathy Breen



By Zoe Isaacs

Content

1. Just like us
2. Where They Live
3. Diet
4. Young and adorable
5. Mating
6. Endangered
7. How you can help
8. For more information
9. Glossary

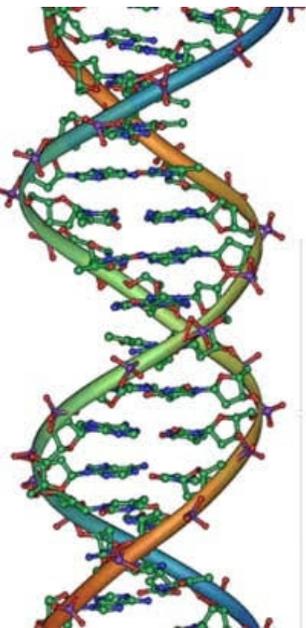
Just like us

Just like us Orangutans are part of the primate family. Primates are a group of highly evolved creatures with advanced ways of life.

Animals like chimps gorillas, and even humans have opposable fingers and toes.

This means they have the ability of grasping objects with their hands and feet, unlike other species such as dogs and cats.

Based on the fact that we evolved from them, we share 97 % of our DNA with orangutans.



Where they live

Orangutans live in Indonesia and Malaysia
On the islands of Sumatra and Borneo.
These are the only known habitats where
wild Orangutans live.



Like other great apes orangutans build nests to
sleep in and bring up their young.
They do this by gathering sticks leaves and
branches and in twining them to create a safe,
sturdy platform.
The nests are made in tree forks and are 23 to 66
feet of the ground.



The nests are used for sleeping and orangutans
even have to give birth in them.
The reason the nests are built so high is for safety.
The high means orangutans can be safe from
predators.

Diet

Orangutans have a pretty basic diet.

They get all the necessary vitamins from Fruit flowers and insects.

Frugivore- an animal or human who's diet consists only of fruit. Because an orang utans diet consists of of 60% fruit they are considered frugivores although 25% is leaves 10% is flowers and bark and 5% is insects.

Orangutans favour a spiky fruit called a Durian. It is a large prickly fruit that smells really bad and is belived to taste like garlic and custard.

Durian is the Malay-Indonesian word for 'spike'.



Young and adorable!

Most young animals are quite independent meaning they forage for themselves, take care of themselves and live by themselves.

That's all well and good for a lion but orangutan babies are very reliant on their mothers.



From birth young orangutans always stay close to their mothers. They can be seen hanging off their mothers back in the tree and have human traits.

For anyone who has a younger sibling you might see an orangutan and think: 'he looks just like my brother'.

This is because of their DNA.

Young orangutans live life like humans. They suck their thumbs, they sleep with their mothers and even play with other orangutans.

They are also just as cute as a human baby!!



Mating

Male orangutans are ready to mate when they are about 15. Females mate when they are twelve.

When a male orangutan is maturing they will grow large pads on the side of their cheeks. These are called cheek pads.

Orangutans use different bellows and calls to attract a mate as well as a variety of scents.

If a female isn't interested male orangutans can force females to mate. If the female is strong enough they can get away but often that isn't the case.

Orangutans don't mate for life which means they will part shortly after the mating process.

They will spend several days together before parting to find another mate.



Endangered

As you might already know orangutans are an endangered species.

Many factors have led to this such as poaching, illegal trade, logging and palm oil plantations.

Orangutan numbers have decreased massively over the last few years and this is due to palm oil.

Palm oil is a type of oil derived from Sumatran palm trees. It can be found in many junk food products like McDonalds and Oreos.

The oil itself isn't the problem it's how it's planted.

Over 90 percent of orangutan habitat has been destroyed in the last twenty years to make room for palm oil.

Deforestation of the Sumatran and Borneo forests has caused orangutan numbers to drop dramatically.

By not buying products with palm oil you are saving an entire species from extinction.

Once



Now



How you can help

There are many simple ways you can help orangutans and other endangered animals.

There are many different companies like WWF that give you the opportunity to sponsor an animal giving that animal a more comfortable and safe life.

Many palm oil companies rely on purchase funds to continue their work. By refusing to buy these products companies can be shut down and ended.

Sponsored orangutan
Gokong



For more information go to
the following websites:

~ The orangutan
project.com

~ Wwf

~ how do orangutans mate

And any other zoological
society websites



Glossary

DNA- deoxyribonucleic acid, the place where genes are stored and make you you.

Diet- a variety of food needed to survive

Independent - Not being controlled or influenced by other people

Endangered- a low numbered species of life normally close to extinction.

Extinction - no longer existing

ORANGUTAN -

PEOPLE OF THE

FOREST

Thank you for
reading

