

Howler Monkey

General Introduction

Up in the canopy climbing in the trees, the howler monkeys swing with ease. As they climb, they communicate with other monkeys using a loud howl. In fact, a howler monkey's howl is the loudest in the world! Howler monkeys, also known as genus *Alouatta* which is their scientific name. They live in South and central America, from the southern tip of Mexico to the bottom of Brazil. Within the rainforest, they live in the canopy layer, which is where their food is located. These animals are so amazing that ancient Mayan tribes even thought that howler monkeys were gods of art and music.

Physical Appearance

Howler monkeys are some of the biggest monkeys in the new world. Although females are usually six to seven pounds, males are bigger and are usually between ten to twenty-two pounds. This size difference is the same when it comes to their lengths. Females are 18-25 inches tall and males are 20-27 inches tall excluding the lengths of their tails. However, both male and females have tails that are 25-26 inches long. Howler monkeys also have a long tail that grows to the size of their whole body. A really important part of their appearance is that they have short snouts and wide set round nostrils. This helps them smell their food and approaching predators from up to two kilometers away. Another physical trait of howler monkeys is their hair. Howler monkeys are known for having very thick hair that comes in a range of colors including red, brown, black or a mix of all. All these parts of a howler monkeys' physical appearance helps them in their daily life.

Life Cycle

The howler monkey has a very interesting life. They howl in the morning and at night. They also howl after eating. Surprisingly they start day slowly, in mid afternoon they take a rest, but the rest of the day is spent traveling, resting and feeding. Another part of their day is when they sleep. They sleep for 15 hours every day! Did you know that since howler monkeys sleep a lot they are prey to other animals? Boa constrictors, big cats, leopards, jaguars, pythons, and crocodiles all eat howler monkeys. That's a lot of predators! They eat leaves, fruit, flowers, nuts, and eggs, which means they are omnivores. The male monkey howls to draw in females and let other monkeys know when mates have been claimed, though they have no mating season. Moms take care of their babies for 6 months before they can survive on their own. If two trees are too far apart for a baby howler monkey to cross the mama would lay down to make a monkey bridge so the baby can walk across! They are pregnant for 180 days and can give birth any time of year, though their births are 1 at a time. Howler monkeys live for about 15-20 years. Another aspect of their daily life is that, there are 5-20 in a group, about 3 are males and the rest women in the group. The howler monkey has a interesting life though it would be nothing without its adaptations.

Adaptations

Physical and behavioral adaptations are what help howler monkeys survive. For example, male howler monkeys have. Did you know male howler monkeys have shell-shaped vocal chambers? Their shell-shaped vocal chambers are what makes their call so loud. They howl at dusk and dawn and during a rainstorm. They also howl to keep group together, which helps if

they get into fights. They use barks, grunts, and woofs to talk to each other. Also their tails are prehensile. A prehensile tail is used like a 5th arm. It is able to grab objects, a necessary trait of a monkey that often hangs from trees! They see colors like humans do, which allows them to see predators and escape in time. Even though they have the amazing ability to detect predators, some of the howler monkeys are endangered.

Conclusion

While howler monkeys are not worried about that much, some species are still endangered. Howler monkeys can be killed for meat. The Maranhao red-handed and Yucatan black howler monkeys are some of the species of howler monkey that are endangered. They also get killed when people cut down trees. We can help by donating to International Animal Rescue (IAR). Another factor that hurts the howler monkeys is that they can't tell the difference between wires and vines, so they get confused and can get electrocuted. If they get electrocuted, they cry out and more monkeys come to help, which makes them all get hurt and maybe even die. The IAR helps by removing electric wires. The IAR also helps by rescuing baby monkeys whose moms have gotten electrocuted. The more we help the howler monkeys, the more these wonderful animals can survive.

Harpy Eagle

General Introduction

How amazing is the harpy eagle, one of the largest birds in the rainforest, soaring through and over the trees! The harpy eagle lives in Central and South America and can be found anywhere between Mexico and the northern part of Argentina in the rainforest. The harpy eagle uses its wings and its grizzly bear-sized claws to live high up in the Canopy and the Emergent layers. The harpy eagle is such an interesting animal that its name was inspired by the harpy, which is a creature from greek mythology that is half woman and half bird but the harpy eagles scientific name is the harpia harpaja. Unlike the mythical creature that gave the harpy eagle its name, the harpy eagle is definitely all bird.

Physical Appearance

The harpy eagle has a really incredible physical appearance. The harpy eagles have back talons that are 5 inches long and its legs are as thick as a small child's wrist. The harpy eagles' beaks are curved to help them grab their prey. They have white feathers on their head, legs, and stomach. It has grey feathers on their head and tail. It also has black feathers on their back and wings and some of their tail. Also it has yellow eyes. The female and male harpy eagles differ because the females are 14-20 pounds and the males are 8 ½ - 12 pounds. The females are 36-44 inches tall and the males are 35-41 inches tall. Also, their wingspan is 6 ½ feet long. In addition to having an amazing physical appearance, the harpy eagle also has an incredible life cycle.

Life Cycle

The harpy eagle has an interesting life cycle. The harpy eagle's daily life consists of hunting, watching their kids and feeding them by taking food and spitting it into their mouths. Both parents are involved with their baby. The babies become grownups when they are 4-5 years old. Snakes and jaguars are the harpy eagles predators, and the harpy eagle's prey are possums, sloths, monkeys and sometimes iguanas and macaws. This food gives them energy to mate. Harpy eagles find a mate by rubbing their beaks and feathers and then building nests together. The harpy eagles build their nests 130 feet up in the trees. The moms have 1-2 babies in a clutch and the eggs hatch 53-56 days after they are laid. The harpy eagle's babies have all white feathers and black eyes when they are born. The harpy eagles are very protective with their kids. For example, if you walk near a harpy eagle with its kids, it will scream at you and it will try to scratch you. The harpy eagle lives for 25-35 years. Along with the harpy eagles amazing life cycle, the harpy eagle also has really cool adaptations.

Physical and Behavioral Adaptations

The harpy eagle has helpful adaptations. The harpy eagle's physical adaptations are that they have amazing eyesight to help them see their prey in the distance. Their wingspan and a big body help them have control maneuvering through the trees. The harpy eagle also has some behavioral adaptations such as knowing the rainforest well, which helps them find their prey. Also, when the male harpy eagle hunts, the female sits on the eggs and when the female eats, the

male sits on the eggs. They do this so that they each have time to have a break of watching their kids while never leaving them alone. Yet, even with those adaptations, it still has many threats.

Conclusion

As amazing as the harpy eagle is, it is still nearly threatened. One reason for this is that people kill them because they don't want the harpy eagle to eat their farm animals. They're also threatened because their habitats are shrinking due to deforestation and logging. However, the international union for conservation of nature says the harpy eagle has the second highest score on the conservation status, which means it's almost considered not threatened. In fact, people and organizations are helping them. For example, an organization called the peregrine fund relocated 5 male female pairs from Panama, Ecuador, and Venezuela to Boise, Idaho. Even though it is cold there, they take care of them. Additionally, Panama made the harpy eagle its national bird to take care of it and publicize it. I hope we can help the harpy eagle too.

Maya ~~2020/01/01~~

Western Lowland Gorilla

General Introduction

It's a humid day while the western lowland gorilla is swinging from vine to vine in the early morning. The vines that they swing on are found along the west coast of Africa, in countries like Cameroon, Guinea and many more. In these countries, gorillas live in the understory and the forest floor of the rainforest. There are many interesting facts about gorillas. One of them is that each gorilla has a unique nose print just like we have fingerprints. Not only are gorillas so interesting they are also smart. They are so smart that they can be taught gorilla sign language! Gorillas are nique creatures, and their physical appearance is as unique as their nose print.

Physical Appearance

Gorillas' bodies are very interesting. Western lowland male gorillas are 4ft 11 inches to 5ft 11 inches . Unlike the male gorillas, female gorillas are small. their only 4 feet 11 inches .Female gorillas are also smaller in weight. They weigh 150lb to 300lb. Unlike the females, male gorillas are 310lb to 600lb. When these huge males turn the age of twelve, the hair on their back turns gray. This is why people call them silverbacks. Both male and female gorillas have jet black skin and black fur all over their bodies except for their face. Now you know about gorilla body's.

Life Cycle

Gorillas have a unique lifestyle. Gorillas start their day at 6am and end it at 6pm. Gorillas stay together all day and all night. The group they stay together with is called a troop. When they wake up they have to keep the lookout for their predators, people and jaguars. Gorillas are polygamous. That means that they mate with more than one gorilla. In order to attract a mate, female gorillas make distracting eye contact while puckering their lips. If they are successful in attracting a mate, the female gorilla gets pregnant and is pregnant for 5 to 8 months. Unlike humans, gorillas can only give birth to one baby at a time. When gorillas are born, they cling to their mothers back for the first three years of their life before they can go off and explore the world. From their mom's back, they can learn how to be independent and stay safe. They learn many good strategies from their mothers during this time because these strategies allow them they live to around 51 years of age! Gorillas have a daily routine like we have a daily routine but gorillas have many adaptations much different than human adaptations.

Adaptations

Over many years, gorillas have developed many adaptations that allow them to survive in the rainforest. One adaptation that gorillas have is that their teeth are very sharp. This helps gorillas chew bamboo and attack their predators such as jaguars by biting them. Another physical adaptation that gorillas have is they have thin fur so they will not overheat in the hot and humid climate of the rainforest. Yet another physical adaptation is that gorillas arms are longer than their legs so they can stand upright on their hands so they can spot predators. An adaptation that helps gorillas survive against their predators, is beating their chest very loudly to scare away

predators. Another use of their strong fists is to break open termite nests to get termites out to eat. However, although gorillas have all these adaptation, gorillas still have an unsure future.

Conclusion

Unfortunately, western lowland gorillas sometimes live unhappy and dangerous lives. Did you know that there are only 150,000 gorillas left in the rainforest? This low number is concerning and many people believe that gorillas will become extinct in the next 10 years. Something that is causing the gorillas numbers to drop, is that their environment is being destroyed due to deforestation, as well as people mining in the gorillas habitat. In some places in the world, people are also hunting gorillas for their meat and their fur. To prevent this from happening, people can recycle their phone when they get a new one in order to prevent illegal mining of coltan. Another way that people are helping gorillas is people are buying and selling sustainable wood. Sustainable wood is wood from trees that people grow just for flooring. Western lowland gorillas are slowly being saved.