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"The One and Only Ivan" tells the heartwarming story of Ivan, a western lowland gorilla.

How much do you know about these amazing animals?

estern lowland gorillas are actually one of four subspecies of gorillas in the world and are found in tropical rainforests throughout seven countries in western Africa. Western lowland gorillas can grow very large—standing 5-6 feet tall and weighing up to 400 pounds or more! In fact, gorillas are the world's largest primate next to humans.

Just like humans, gorillas are social animals and often live in family groups, called troops. A troop typically consists of one adult male called the silverback, several females and their young. An adult male gorilla is called a silverback because the hair on his back turns silver-grey as he gets older. Within a troop, the silverback protects the group,



keeps the peace and makes decisions about the troop's movement. The females follow the silverback and care for young gorillas by grooming, feeding and carrying them.

During the day, gorillas spend the majority of their time foraging, or looking for food, and eating. Western lowland gorillas are primarily herbivorous, feeding on plant species, while occasionally eating insects like ants and termites. After a long day of foraging, gorillas build their own nests to sleep on by tucking leaves and branches under and around their bodies. They never use a nest more than once, so they make a new one every time they sleep.

Though western lowland gorillas have the largest wild population of all gorilla subspecies, they are at great risk and considered critically endangered with a decreasing

population. One threat is poaching—the illegal hunting of gorillas and other animals for their meat. Another significant threat is habitat loss. Gorilla habitat is currently disappearing due to



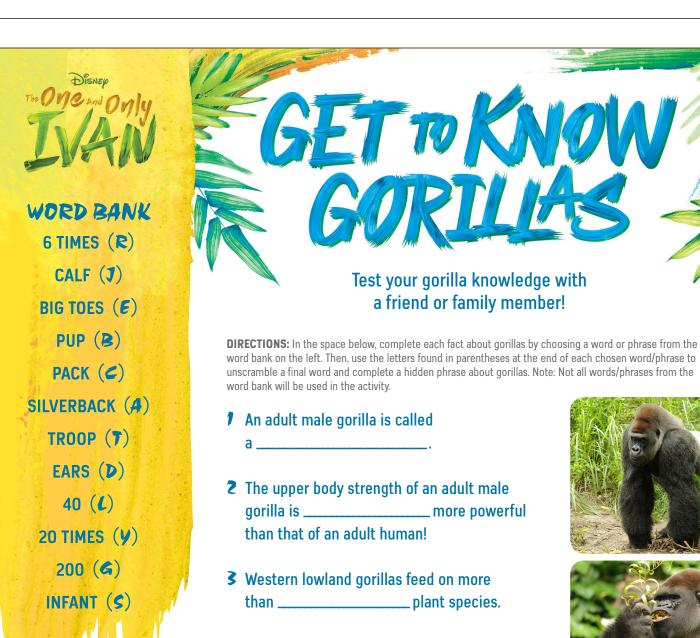
forests being cleared for logging, agriculture, human settlement and mining. For example, mining for coltan—a mineral used to make electronics like cell phones and computers—disrupts the



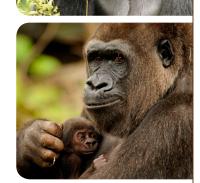






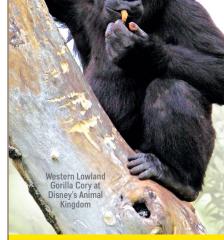






Western Lowland Gorillas at Disney's Animal Kingdom: Zawadi (top), Spike (middle), Kashata and Lilly (bottom)

- 4 In addition to opposable thumbs on their hands, gorillas have opposable _____ their feet, which they can grasp objects with.
- 5 A baby gorilla is called an _____
- **6** Gorillas are very social animals and live in groups. A group of gorillas is called



- HIDDEN PHRASE:

GORILLAS ARE THE WORLD'S NON-HUMAN PRIMATES.

Answer Key: 1. silverback, 2. 6 times, 3. 200, 4. big toes, 5. infant, 6. troop Hidden word: largest

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