

## The lowland Gorilla – The friendly Giant

Have you ever imagined yourself hiking through the jungle and coming face to face with a life size teddy bear that could rip you to shreds? The Lowland Gorilla is such a creature.

**Classification:** Mammal   **Scientific Name:** Gorilla Gorilla Gorilla   **Diet:** Fruit

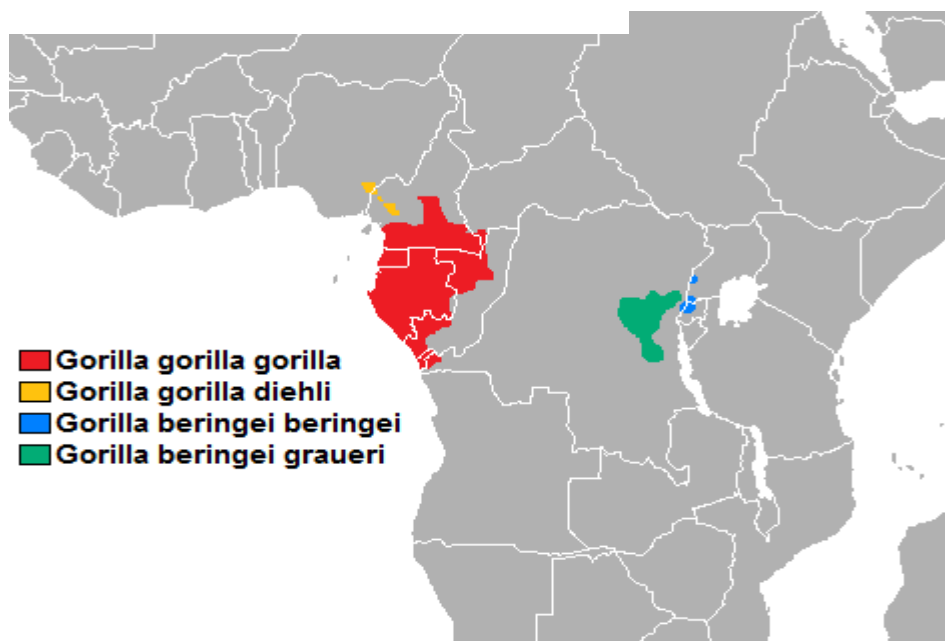


### The Friendly Beast!

Gorillas are the largest apes, but Western Lowland Gorillas are the smallest subspecies. Despite being the smallest, these gorillas still have exceptional strength and size. An adult male, if well fed can weigh around 227 kilograms and can stand up to an impressive 1.8 meters. An adult female can weigh close to 90 kilograms and can stand up to 1.4 meters. The gorillas most useful feature is its long, muscular arms, essential for climbing and knuckle walking.

### Around The World!

Western Lowland Gorillas are the most common and widespread species of gorilla. They live in West Africa. They inhabit rainforests, swamps and plains. The majority of the population can be found in Congo, Cameroon and Angola.



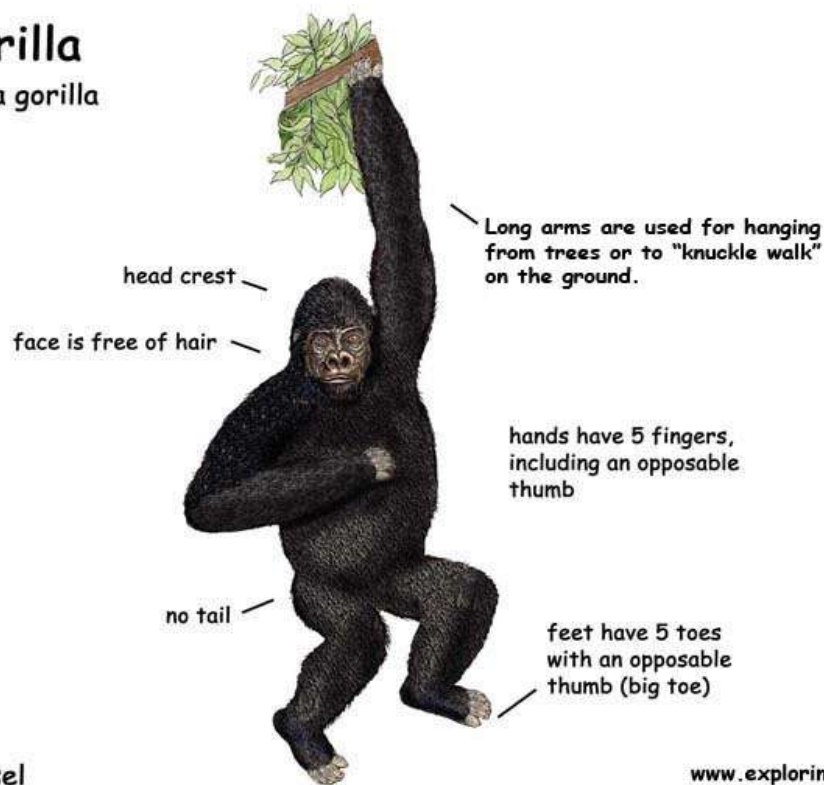
## Plant Based Power

Western Lowland Gorillas are herbivores. They eat fruit that is high in sugar and fibre. However, when fruit is scarce, they eat leaves, shoots, herbs and bark. Their main diet consist of bugs such as ants and mangoes, but they must eat 18 kilograms a day to survive.

## Major dangers

Unfortunately, these magnificent creatures are critically endangered. The most common threats include habitat loss, hunting and diseases such as Ebola. But the main threat these gorillas face is the illegal pet trade. But when it comes to predators these animals are considered lucky, for their only predators are leopards, and humans

### Gorilla Gorilla gorilla



## Unique Design

The unique and fascinating lowland gorilla has been designed to suit the bush and the humid jungle. These animals prefer to live in areas with plenty of dense covers to forage for food. They have also been known to live in secondary forests.

**By Aldo Francis-Sinacola**