

Mountain Gorillas Need Rescuing

Did you know that there are beautiful human like creatures on this planet that are being threatened? The mountain gorilla is that creature. There are roughly 1,000 mountain gorillas left in the wild today. To put it in perspective, the population of mountain gorillas is less than the population of one average American high school. Overall, the mountain gorilla should be a priority to be saved from the brink of extinction.

Want to know more read the back!

What: Saving Mountain Gorillas
When: Thursday May 9th 5-6:30
Where: ARE Gym

Please bring cash! Small bills are best to help support ARE 5th graders in saving these special animals! All proceeds will go to the Dian Fossey Fund!

SAVE
US!!



Background

The *Gorilla beringei beringei* species or mountain gorillas as we commonly call it was discovered in 1902 and since then we have discovered three other types of gorillas or cousins. Despite having a few different subspecies the mountain gorilla, who stands 4 to 5 ½ feet tall on two feet weighing up to 440 lbs, is the smallest population of gorilla in the world. All of the worlds wild gorilla population lives on the African continent however, the mountain gorilla only inhabits the rainforest of the Virunga Mountains near Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda. Even though these primates live in Africa, temperatures in this mountain range can drop well below freezing this is why these mountain gorillas need their thick fur to survive. These precious animals deserve to survive.

Why They Matter

You may wonder why are gorillas so important? These primates help the ecosystem, the bug population, and the rainforest. They help the ecosystem by eating fruit with a seed, then later they will make waste and the seed doesn't fully digest. Their waste works as perfect fertilizer for the seed and will later sprout. This is how it makes more trees for the rainforest. Mountain gorillas, like all wild animals, play an important role in our environment. According to the African Wildlife Foundation website, tourism in Africa has made over \$400 million in just two years. This helps Africans because the continent of Africa is struggling with great poverty. This is why these primates play such an important role in our environment and world yet they are still facing many threats.

Flyer By: Jerdon Coffee and Bryan Chavarria

Threats

Mountain gorillas are getting closer to extinction every day due to many threats like habitat loss including charcoal mining, human disease, and the war that is happening in Rwanda. In just one year 3700 acres of gorilla rainforest was lost to illegal settlers, states WWF. Another threat the mountain gorilla faces are human diseases. Unvisited gorillas are incredibly vulnerable to common cold germs because their immune system is not as built up as visited gorillas and human immune systems are. Lastly the war that has been going on in Rwanda has lead to poaching and bushmeat. Rebels from the Democratic Republic of Congo have been poaching and selling gorillas body parts for money to feed their families and are clearing forest land to make new settlements away from the war.

Action Steps

The mountain gorillas are over 8,000 miles away from Denver, but there are still things that we can do to help save these gentle creatures. For example, we can save forests by creating awareness for people to realize these amazing creatures are dying in the wild because of things humans. This will hopefully lead to timber and charcoal companies understanding that if we keep destroying animal habitat there won't be anything left. According to the Dian Fossey website we can recycle our old or broken electronics because there are metals in those phones that are mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo, If you recycle your old electronics, this will help reduce the demand for these metals causing less mining for them.. In addition to that, WWF is trying to reforest areas and fund anti-poaching patrols. Despite all this the mountain gorilla still needs help, let's give them the help while we still have the time!