N.B.

Year 1 Level C

Mrs. McCowan

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Persisting Chimpanzee Society

Surprisingly, chimpanzee behavior is closer to humans than most people think. Chimpanzees have family structures, societies, and even go to war. The members of chimpanzee families usually have close relations with one another, which causes them to show affection and protect one another. When chimps meet, they sometimes shake hands, pat each other on the back, hug, or kiss. When baby chimpanzees cry, the mother or father hushes them and plays with them ("Chimpanzees"). The male chimpanzees will intimidate the females and children to establish a hierarchy. Because of the power struggle, male chimps will intimidate by shouting and banging their chests, swinging branches around their heads, stomping their feet, and throwing clumps of dirt ("End of a Distinct Society"). Despite common belief, chimpanzees have a lot more human behaviors than most people assume.

In 1974, a civil war broke out among the apes of the original Kasakela tribe and the separatist Kahama tribe. Finding reasons for the cause of the civil war was hard, but a common belief for the buildup began with some tribe members having little to no support for the reigning alpha, Humphrey. Because of this, in 1970, ten chimps left for the south and began their own tribe, which was called Kahama. By 1972, Kahama was a completely unique tribe from the original Kasakela ("Persisting Disappearances"). Unfortunately, over the years, tensions rose between the two tribes, with their border patrols throwing insults at each other whenever they met. The war officially started in 1974 when three Kasakela chimps attacked a Kahama chimp. The war lasted for three years, ending with Kasakela defeating and reclaiming Kahama as part of their territory ("End of a Distinct Society").

The chimpanzees at Lake Tanganyika were in danger for several years. A hundred or more chimpanzees live near the shore of Lake Tanganyika in Gombe Stream National Park. Before 1942, humans were destroying the habitat and environment of the chimpanzees, and unless steps were taken, it would have been completely destroyed. Luckily, in 1943, the Gombe Stream was fortunately declared a national park, thus preserving the habitat. Because the habitat wasn't destroyed, in 1960 researchers started coming to Lake Tanganyika to study the chimpanzees and their behavior. The start of the research in Gombe Stream began with Dr. Jane Goodall, who studied the chimps for over twenty years ("End of a Distinct Society"). Thanks to the efforts of many people, the chimpanzee habitat is safe and can be studied without endangering the chimps.