

## Jane Goodall Biography (detailed)

In the summer of 1960, a young Englishwoman arrived on the shores of Lake Tanganyika in Tanzania, East Africa. She was about to venture into the African forest to study chimpanzees—a highly unorthodox activity for a woman at that time. British authorities had insisted that the young woman have a companion, and so her mother would for a time share this adventure. As Jane Goodall first surveyed the mountains and valley forests of what was then called the Gombe Stream Chimpanzee Reserve, she had no idea her coming efforts would redefine the relationship between humans and animals or that this project would continue into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This Tanzanian adventure was the fulfillment of Goodall's childhood dream. She had been fascinated by animals even as a small girl—once frightening the adults in her household by disappearing for hours to hide under some hay in the henhouse and wait for a chicken to lay an egg. "It was Jane's first animal research program," her mother, Vanne, would say later. Jane read countless books about wild animals and dreamed about living like Tarzan and Dr. Dolittle.

As a young woman Goodall searched for ways to realize her dream. When in 1957 a school friend invited Jane to her parents' farm in Kenya, Jane eagerly accepted. Within a few months of arriving, she met the famed anthropologist and paleontologist Dr. Louis Leakey. Leakey had been searching for someone to begin a study of chimpanzees, not only to better understand these little-known primates but also to gain insight into man's evolutionary past. Goodall's patience and persistent desire to understand animals convinced him she was the right person. He believed that a mind uncluttered by academia would yield a fresh perspective.

At first, the Gombe chimps fled whenever they saw Jane. But she persisted, watching from a distance with binoculars, and gradually the chimps allowed her closer. One day in October 1960 she saw chimps David Greybeard and Goliath strip leaves off twigs to fashion tools for

fishing termites from a nest. Scientists thought humans were the only species to make tools, but here was evidence to the contrary. On hearing of Jane's observation, Leakey said: "Now we must redefine *tool*, redefine *Man*, or accept chimpanzees as humans." This would be one of Jane's most important discoveries.

Also in her first year at Gombe, Jane observed chimps hunting and eating bushpigs and other animals, disproving theories that chimpanzees were primarily vegetarians and fruit eaters who only occasionally supplemented their diet with insects and small rodents.

Goodall's work in Gombe became more widely known and in 1962 she entered Cambridge University as a Ph.D. candidate, one of very few people to be admitted without a college degree. She earned her Ph.D. in ethology in 1965.

It is hard to overstate the degree to which Dr. Goodall changed and enriched the field of primatology. She defied scientific convention by giving the Gombe chimps names instead of numbers, and insisted on the validity of her observations that animals have distinct personalities, minds and emotions. She wrote of lasting chimpanzee family relationships. Through the years her work continued to yield surprising insights, such as the unsettling discovery that chimpanzees engage in primitive and brutal warfare. In early 1974, a "four-year war" began at Gombe, the first record of long-term "warfare" in nonhuman primates. Members of the Kasekela group systematically annihilated members of the "Kahama" splinter group. Dr. Goodall would also chart surprising courtship patterns in which males force females into consortships in remote spots for days or even months. And she and her field staff in 1987 would observe adolescent Spindle "adopt" three-year-old orphan Mel, even though the infant was not a close relative.

The Gombe Stream Research Centre, which Jane Goodall established in 1965, eventually became a training ground for students interested in studying primates. Today it hosts a skilled

team of researchers and field assistants, including many Tanzanians.

Women primatologists owe a debt to Dr. Goodall. Said Gilbert Grosvenor, chairman of the National Geographic Society: "Jane Goodall's trail-blazing path for other women primatologists is arguably her greatest legacy. During the last third of the twentieth century, Dian Fossey, Birute Galdikas, Cheryl Knott, Penny Patterson, and many more women have followed her. Indeed, women now dominate long-term primate behavioral studies worldwide."

Perhaps most significantly, Dr. Goodall's work opened a window onto the world of chimpanzees for a public with a strong curiosity about its closest genetic relatives. Her books, particularly *In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*, brought the world onto a first-name basis with the chimpanzees of Gombe. Gombe's greatest mother, Flo, and her offspring became internationally known. When homely old Flo died in 1972, the London *Times* printed an obituary.

In 1977, Goodall established the Jane Goodall Institute. The Institute supports the continuing research at Gombe and is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa, and the Roots & Shoots education program, which has 8,000 registered groups in more than 95 countries.

In 1986, after a conference session with startling news about deforestation and the rapid dwindling of chimpanzee populations across Africa, Dr. Goodall realized she would have to leave her beloved Gombe and begin working to save chimpanzees. She continues this work today, traveling an average 300 days per year to visit school children and speak in packed auditoriums about the threats facing chimpanzees, other environmental crises, and her reasons for hope that humankind will ultimately solve the problems it has imposed on the earth. Dr. Goodall continually urges her audiences to recognize their personal responsibility and ability to effect change through consumer action, lifestyle change and activism. "Every individual counts," she says. "Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference."

Dr. Goodall also emphasizes the interconnectedness of all life. The Roots &

Shoots program embodies this principle by encouraging member groups to undertake service learning projects benefiting people, animals and the environment. Dr. Goodall's scores of honors include the Medal of Tanzania, the National Geographic Society's Hubbard Medal, Japan's prestigious Kyoto Prize, the Prince of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research 2003, the Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, and the Gandhi/King Award for Nonviolence. In April 2002 Secretary-General Kofi Annan named Dr. Goodall a United Nations "Messenger of Peace." Messengers help mobilize the public to become involved in work that makes the world a better place. They serve as advocates in a variety of areas: poverty eradication, human rights, peace and conflict resolution, HIV/AIDS, disarmament, community development and environmentalism. In 2004, in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, Prince Charles invested Dr. Goodall as a Dame of the British Empire, the female equivalent of knighthood. In 2006, Dr. Goodall received the UNESCO Gold Medal Award and the French Legion of Honor, presented by Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin.

Dr. Goodall has received honorary doctorates from numerous universities, including: Utrecht University, Holland; Ludwig-Maximilians University, Munich; Stirling University, Scotland; Providence University, Taiwan; University of Guelph and Ryerson University in Canada; Buffalo University, Tufts University and other U.S. universities.

Dr. Goodall's list of publications is extensive, including two overviews of her work at Gombe—*In the Shadow of Man* and *Through a Window*—as well as two autobiographies in letters and a best-selling autobiography, *Reason for Hope*. Her latest book is *Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating*. Her many children's books include *Grub: the Bush Baby*, *Chimpanzees I Love: Saving Their World and Ours* and *My Life with the Chimpanzees*. *The Chimpanzees of Gombe: Patterns of Behavior* is recognized as the definitive work on chimpanzees and is the culmination of Jane Goodall's scientific career. She has been the subject of numerous television documentaries and is featured in the large-screen format film, *Jane Goodall's Wild Chimpanzees* (2002). In 2004 the Discovery channel's Animal Planet aired two specials about Dr. Goodall—*Jane Goodall's Return to Gombe* and *Jane Goodall's State of the Great Ape*.