



# Project Chimps

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**Activity Name:** Chimpanzee Sanctuaries

**Learning Objectives:** SKL1, SKL2, SSKG2, S1L1, S2L1, S5L1, L6-8WHST1, S7L1, S7L4, SB5.d

**Grade/Age Level:** all

**Estimated Time:** 3-4 hours onsite w/ tour, 60-90 min. in classroom/virtual

**Materials:** rolls of kraft/brown paper, pens, pencils, markers, colored pencils, blank world & US maps

**Methods:** discuss, explore, compare & contrast, identify, create

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**Goal:** Educate students on the differences between zoos and sanctuaries, the increased need for sanctuaries and look at the current chimpanzee sanctuaries throughout the world.

## Background:

- **Zoos and Sanctuaries- Similarities and Differences**
  - **Similarities :**
    - Keep animals in captivity
    - Often charge fees for people to come and see the animals (not all sanctuaries allow public admission)
    - They both have organizations to oversee them
      - All sanctuaries must be a part of the **Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS)** and/or the **American Zoo Association (AZA)** and they must follow all guidelines established for being a sanctuary. GFAS works with facilities to improve and reach the highest standard of animal care, management, and governance.
      - All accredited zoos must be a member of the AZA and follow their guidelines on husbandry and care. (be wary of “roadside” zoos that are NOT accredited by the AZA)
  - **Differences:**
    - Zoos have breeding programs while sanctuaries do not believe in breeding and perpetuating animals in captivity
    - Zoos purchase animals while sanctuaries rescue animals already in captivity
    - Sanctuaries provide lifelong care to their residents while zoos will trade, sell and even kill their “surplus” animals
    - Zoos are for profit and designed to attract and entertain visitors. Sanctuaries are generally non-profit organizations and are designed with the animals’ safety, security, and well-being in mind. Sanctuaries want their residents to have a



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choice over whether they are viewed or not and to decide what they do in their day to day lives. Sanctuaries have the animals' best interests at heart while zoos look at things more from the human perspective.

- **The Rise and Role of Chimpanzee Sanctuaries**

- The decline in the use of chimpanzees in medical research began in the 1990s as a result of scientists learning that chimps were not a good comparison to humans in the studies being done. This decline, as well as the increase in citations brought against laboratories for chimp care, neglect and death, emphasized the need to address what to do with chimps previously used in medical research.
  - Why chimps are not a good research model for humans:
    - Even after vaccines and medicines have been deemed safe in chimps, they have injured or even killed humans
    - When being used in brain research, the amyloid plaque that chimpanzees develop in their brains is drastically different from the plaque that humans develop in their brains. It has been determined that there is no detectable similarity in the cerebral cortex of chimpanzees compared to humans.
    - While chimps can carry the HIV virus, the virus does not affect them, making HIV studies on chimps of no value for human research
    - We now have human based cell cultures that are more accurate in how they respond compared to chimpanzees, making experiments on chimpanzees redundant
    - There is no necessity or compelling scientific justification for the use of chimpanzees to study human diseases and treatments.
    - Even though we share 98.7% of our DNA, there are still tens of millions of DNA sequence differences plus innumerable and variable differences in gene expression between our two species.
  - Sanctuaries began to open in the mid-90s in response to this need.
  - In 1997 the **Air Force** announced they would no longer use chimps and **the Laboratory for Experimental Medicine & Surgery in Primates** (LEMSIP) closed. At this time there were about 1,500 chimps in labs, the highest in history.
  - **North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance** (NAPSA), founded in 2010 has eight member sanctuaries, five of which house chimpanzees. NAPSA sanctuaries care for over 800 primates rescued and retired from private ownership, the entertainment industry, and the research industry. This includes 430+ chimpanzees, 130+ capuchin monkeys, 90+ squirrel monkeys, 50+ tamarins, and even 20+ orangutans.
    - The eight member sanctuaries include:



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- Project Chimps (Blue Ridge, GA)
- Chimp Haven (Keithville, LA)
- Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest (Cle Elum, WA)
- Black Beauty Ranch (Murchison, TX)
- Center for Great Apes (Wauchula, FL)
- Fauna (Quebec, Canada)
- Jungle Friends Primate Sanctuary (Gainesville, FL)
- Primates Incorporated (Madison, WI)
  - Fun fact- our Executive Director, Ali Crumpacker, sits on the NAPSA board!
- In 2015 there was a drastic increase in the need for sanctuaries as a result of an amendment to the **Endangered Species Act (ESA)** to end the split listing of chimpanzees and to include captive chimps as an endangered species; thereby, **ending all medical research on them!!** Before this, captive chimps were considered a “threatened” species and were not afforded the same protection as wild chimps. It was more important than ever to find sanctuaries to take in all the chimpanzees that needed forever homes.
  - **Endangered** – “any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range”
  - **Threatened** – “any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range”
  - In simple terms
    - Endangered species are at the brink of extinction now.
    - Threatened species are likely to be at the brink in the near future.
- **Current Chimpanzee Sanctuaries**
  - Freedom for Great Apes (Bend, OR)
    - Est. 1995. 7 chimps. Formerly known as Chimps, Inc.
  - Save the Chimps (Port St. Lucie, FL)
    - Est. 1997. Over 240+ chimps. Took in many of the retired air force and NASA chimps in addition to chimps used in the entertainment industry. Sanctuary consists of 12 islands separated by canals, no walls.
  - Chimpanzee Sanctuary Northwest (Cle Elum, WA)
    - Est. 2003. 10 chimps. 7 chimps placed in the sanctuary arrived in 2008 from a lab in Pennsylvania. They have also taken in a few chimps from the entertainment industry.
  - Chimp Haven (Keithville, LA)



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- Est. 2005. Over 300+ chimps. Only federally funded chimp sanctuary. Received many chimps from the MD Anderson Cancer Center in TX in addition to chimps that were used in HIV & Hepatitis studies. Currently trying to increase habitat to help bring remaining lab chimps to sanctuary.
  - There are still 3 main labs that house chimps (except for NIRC where we are getting our chimps, see below).
    - MD Anderson has 100+
    - Alamogordo Primate Facility in New Mexico has 44
    - Southwest National Primate Research Center (SNPRC) has 100+
- Project Chimps (Blue Ridge, GA)
  - Est. 2014. Currently, 77 chimps. Chimps are all from **New Iberia Research Center (NIRC)** at the University of Louisiana. There are still over 100 chimps waiting to be brought to Project Chimps as we continue to build new housing and habitat for them. We have a deal with NIRC to bring all their chimps to Project Chimps.

### **Above sanctuaries are all chimp only, the following sanctuaries have other animals as well.**

- Primarily Primates (San Antonio, TX)
  - Est. 1978. 35 chimps from biomedical field, pet trade, former Air Force chimps and one chimp, Oliver, from the entertainment industry who was referred to as a “humanzee” because he would walk bipedally
- Primate Rescue Center (Nicholasville, KY)
  - Est. late 1980s. 9 chimps.
- Fauna (Quebec, Canada)
  - Est. 1990. 10 chimps. Worked with James Mahoney to get some of the LEMSIP chimps. James was the LEMSIP veterinarian who began working with sanctuaries to smuggle chimps out of laboratories in the 1990s.
- Center for Great Apes (Wauchula, FL)
  - Est. 1993. 31 chimps and 27 orangutans.
- Animal, Advocacy and Protection (AAP) Foundation (The Netherlands)
  - Est. 1972. Began raising funds and started as a small sanctuary
  - Est. 1996. 28 chimps. After outgrowing their first location, they relocated to the Almere sanctuary. These chimps were all from biomedical research labs which mostly did tests for HIV or Hep C +. Dutch outlawed research on chimps in 2002.
  - Est. 2009. Opened a new sanctuary in Spain called Primadomus Spain, where they currently house chimps and tigers.
- Kumamoto Sanctuary (Kyoto University, Japan)



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- Est. 2011. 56 chimps and 6 bonobos.
- Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
  - Est. 2000. Consists of 23 organizations throughout 13 African countries with a combined 1,000+ chimps.

## Procedures:

1. **Discuss.** Have a discussion on:
  - a. The Differences Between Zoos and Sanctuaries
  - b. Why Sanctuaries were Formed
  - c. The Increased Need for Sanctuaries
  - d. Current Chimpanzee Sanctuaries Throughout the World
2. **Tour.** If onsite- take your tour!
3. **Activities.** Complete 1 or more of the activities below. All lesson plans can be shared to complete more activities back in the classroom post field trip.
4. **Assessment.** Discuss the assessment questions below.

## Activities:

1. **Examine.** (all) Take a closer look at each sanctuary and determine which sanctuary matches the description in this [Which Sanctuary?](#) activity.
2. **Create.** (all) Create a diorama for a chimpanzee sanctuary. How would you design your own sanctuary? What things do you need to make sure that the chimps have to be happy and healthy?
3. **Identify.** (6-12) Identify on a [map of North America](#) where all the US and Canada sanctuaries are located and identify the international sanctuaries on a [world map](#).
4. **Timeline.** (6-12) Make a timeline showing the years that each sanctuary was established and include information about laws and any other pertinent things that were going on in history at that time.
5. **Research.** (6-12) Choose one of the sanctuaries to do a small research project on. What can you learn about them? Educate your fellow classmates by making an [Educational Flier](#) about the sanctuary. Send Project Chimps your research! We would love to see the work you are doing. You can send your work to [events@projectchimps.org](mailto:events@projectchimps.org)
  - Use these questions to help guide you:
    - Where did their chimps come from?
    - When did their chimps arrive?
    - Are they still taking in more chimps?
    - What is the breakdown by age? Sex?



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- What types of enrichment do they do?
- Describe their habitat.
- What sets them apart from the other sanctuaries?
- How are they funded?
- Do they have events and/or tours?
- Any fun facts or stories associated with them?
- Do they have their own book or famous people associated with them?

## **Assessment:**

1. Name a few of the things that happened in the 1990s that lead to the decline of chimps being used in research.
2. What happened in 2015 to totally change the lives of chimps in laboratories?
3. What does NAPSA stand for and why is it important? What does the GFAS stand for and what role does it play?
4. How many chimp sanctuaries are there? How many chimps are now in sanctuary?

## **Conclusion:**

While it is unfortunate that so many chimps had to endure medical testing, being used in entertainment and space research, today, the majority of chimpanzees are in sanctuary. Many people throughout the world have come together to help create safe havens for chimpanzees.

## **Notes to Instructor:**

- [Assessment Questions and Answers](#)
- Use your judgement to simplify lesson for lower grades.
- Thank you for being a part of our community!