

Me...Jane Unit Study

Book by Patrick McDonnell

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Social Studies

Jane Goodall

Explore the person behind the book. Jane Goodall was born in 1934 in England. She is a primatologist, ethologist, and anthropologist who lived with and studied chimpanzees and their behaviors. She learned how they cared for their young, and how they were individuals. She named the animals she was studying, which is unusual. Most researchers do not want to become attached to their subjects and number them. She established the Jane Goodall Institute, which runs conservation programs for chimpanzees and the environment. It also supports research. She was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace in 2002.

Jane has a stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee that goes everywhere with her. Discuss imaginary friends and stuffed animals with your child. Does your child have a favorite stuffed animal or toy? What do they like about them? What do they think Jane likes about Jubilee?

Career

Jane wants to work with animals when she grows up. She practices the skills she will need when she is older by observing, taking notes, and interacting with the animals around her. What does your child want to do when he grows up? What skills is your child learning now that they will need to know if they follow that career choice when they are older?

Geography

Locate Africa on a map. If you want to be more specific, locate Tanzania. Jane Goodall is from England. Find England and trace with your finger how far Jane had to travel to go study the chimpanzees!

Language Arts

Observations

Observe something (a pet, a squirrel or bird, an animal at the zoo) and take notes (or just discuss, with a younger child) about the things that the animal is doing. Why are they doing those things? Do you have to be quiet to let the animal continue what it is doing?

What happens if you make too much noise? Why should you write down what you observe? Would you remember all of it if you just tried to keep it in your mind?

Have your child write a short story or paragraph about the animal that they observed. Have them give the animal a name.

If desired, create your own Animal Observation Journal. Print the cover page provided. Print 5-10 copies of the observation page. Stack all together with the cover on top. Secure with three staples along the left side to form a book.

Story Writing

Have your student write (or tell) a story with an animal as the main character. Will the animal do human things, or animal things? Are people and animals sometimes similar?

Listmaking

Have your student use the page provided to make a list of his or her favorite animals.

Discuss Tarzan

Discuss Tarzan, a fictional character who was raised in the African jungle by apes. He meets humans later in life and is shocked to find that there are people like him! He continues to live in the jungle and is often portrayed as a hero or rescuer.

Art

Have your student make a drawing of their favorite animal, and write a few sentences about the animal.

Look at the birds drawn as V's in the drawings. Have your student make a drawing, and have them add birds in the sky!

Look at the drawings for The Alligator Society. If your student is interested, let them develop their own club and design a logo!

Look at the page that starts, "With the wind in her hair..." and the following page that says, "Jane dreamed of a life in Africa, too...". Compare the illustrations on those pages. What has changed in the second illustration? (A tiger, giraffe and lion have appeared. The birds are closer or larger. There are more trees and vegetation. The sun is hotter—you can tell by the lines around it).

Math

Figuring Age

How old is Jane Goodall? How old was she when she arrived in Africa (in 1957)?

Measurement

Have your student line up all of his or her stuffed animals. Measure them. Record the measurements on the page provided. Who is tallest? Who is shortest? Are any the same size?

Science

Chicken Eggs

Where do (chicken) eggs come from? Discuss eggs hatching—it takes 21 days for a chicken to hatch an egg!

Heartbeat

Let your child listen to your heartbeat (or his own, if possible)

African Animals

Does your child know any other animals that live in Africa? (Examples include: Lion, Elephant, Leopard, Rhino, Giraffe, Zebra, Hippopotamus, Warthog, Wildebeest, and Buffalo)

Brain

Look at the different size brains in the illustrations. Why would animals have different sized brains? As you might imagine, larger animals have larger brains. However, this does not mean that animals with larger brains are smarter than animals with smaller brains. For example, a larger brain is necessary to control larger muscles in larger animals and a larger brain is necessary to process more sensory information from the skin in larger animals; this has nothing to do with intelligence.

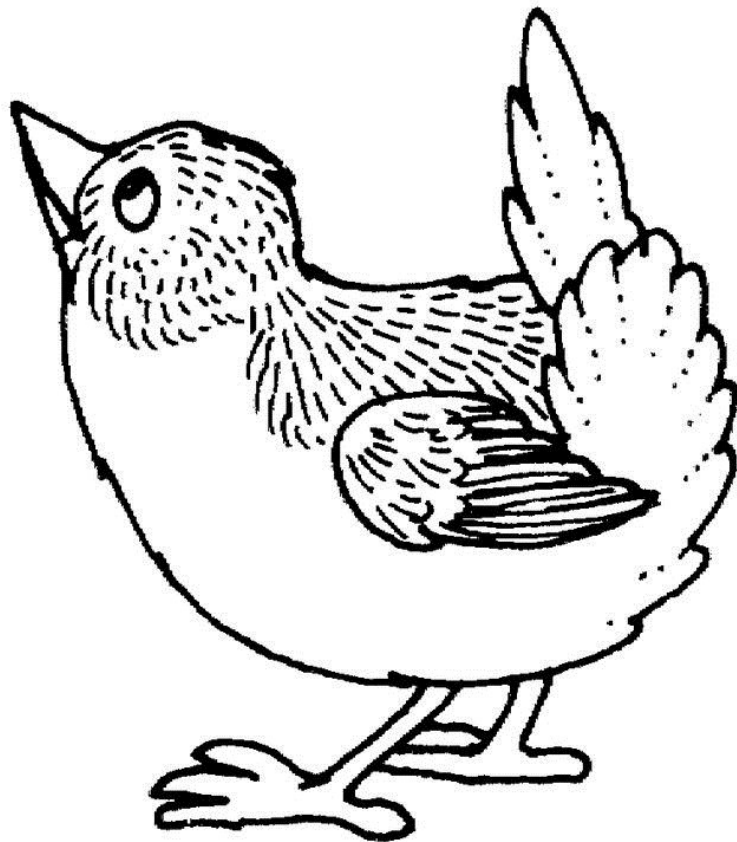
Trees

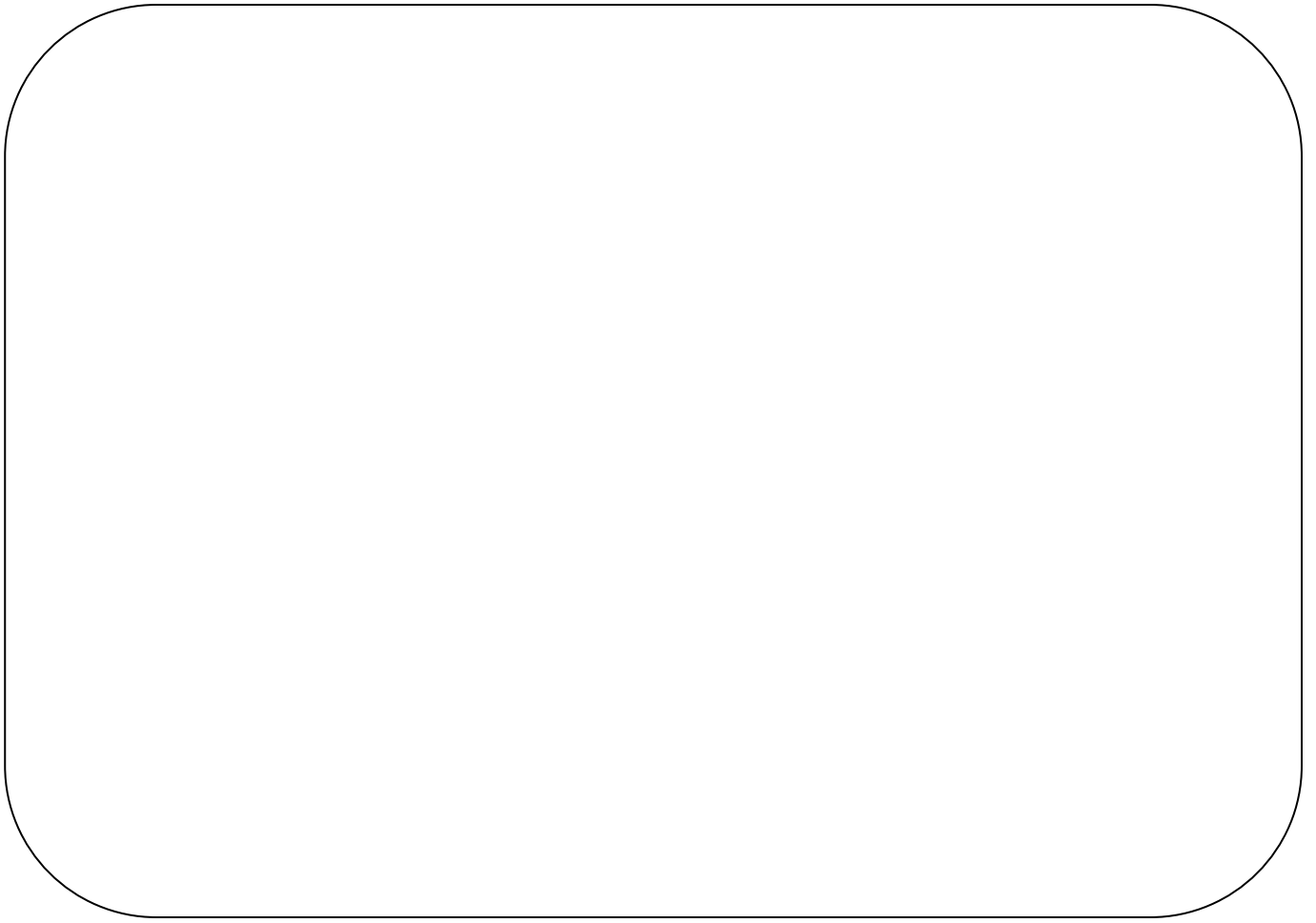
The tree in the illustrations is a Beech Tree. Does your child have a favorite kind of tree? What kinds of trees do you have in your yard or geographic area?

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My Animal Observation Journal





stuffed animal measurements

25 inches					
24 inches					
23 inches					
22 inches					
21 inches					
20 inches					
19 inches					
18 inches					
17 inches					
16 inches					
15 inches					
14 inches					
13 inches					
12 inches					
11 inches					
10 inches					
9 inches					
8 inches					
7 inches					
6 inches					
5 inches					
4 inches					
3 inches					
2 inches					
1 inch					



My Favorite Animals

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines each (top solid, middle dotted, bottom solid).