

# Reading Comprehension Worksheet: Main Ideas & Summarize

Read the short story and answer each question.



## The Amazing Work of Jane Goodall

Jane Goodall was not a trained scientist when she first went to Africa in 1960. She was a young woman with a notebook, a pair of binoculars, and a deep love for animals. She traveled to Tanzania to study **chimpanzees**, and what she discovered changed science forever.

At the time, people believed that only humans used tools. But Jane observed chimpanzees using sticks to collect termites from logs. This was a groundbreaking discovery. Jane's work proved that animals could use tools and solve problems.

She didn't just study chimpanzees from a distance. She watched them closely, gave them names like David Greybeard and Flo, and wrote about their personalities. Her careful observation helped the world understand that animals have emotions, relationships, and unique behaviors.

As she grew older, Jane became a voice for protecting wildlife. She founded the **Jane Goodall Institute**, which works to save chimpanzees and teach people about conservation. She also started **Roots & Shoots**, a youth program that encourages kids around the world to care for animals, people, and the environment.

Jane Goodall's work changed how we think about animals—and continues to inspire new generations to protect them.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Amazing Work of Jane Goodall

1. What is one main idea of the text?

- A. Jane Goodall made important discoveries about how chimpanzees behave.
- B. Jane Goodall became a famous movie star in Africa.
- C. Chimpanzees can only be found in zoos.
- D. Jane studied insects before studying chimps.

2. What is another main idea of the text?

- A. Jane Goodall works to protect animals and teach others about conservation.
- B. Jane Goodall only studied animals in North America.
- C. Chimpanzees are dangerous and should be avoided.
- D. Jane's program only helps adults.

3. Fill in the blank:

Jane gave chimpanzees names like \_\_\_\_\_ and wrote about their personalities.

4. What details in the text support the idea that Jane changed how scientists viewed animals?

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5. Write a short summary of this passage using both main ideas and at least two supporting facts.

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# Parent and Teacher Guide

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**Guide Reading Level:** T

**Lexile Level:** 900L-1050L

**Grade Level:** 5th Grade, Beginning of the Year

**Genre:** Informational – Biography / Life Science

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## Introducing the Text

*“This biography shares the life and work of Jane Goodall, a scientist and conservationist. As students read, they will identify two central ideas: her discoveries about chimpanzees and her work to protect animals. Students will also practice linking supporting details to each main idea and summarizing the text clearly.”*

**Vocabulary:** chimpanzee, observe, tool use, conservation, inspire

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## Before Reading Discussion Questions

1. What do you know about chimpanzees and how they behave?
  2. Why do you think scientists study animal behavior?
  3. What might it mean to protect or conserve something?
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## During Reading Discussion Questions

1. What made Jane Goodall’s discovery about tool use important?
  2. How did her work with chimpanzees change what people believed?
  3. Why did she create programs like Roots & Shoots?
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## After Reading Discussion Questions

1. What are the two main ideas of this text?
  2. What facts support each of the main ideas?
  3. How would you summarize Jane Goodall’s work and impact?
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## Activity Idea

Ask students to make a two-column chart. Label one side “Jane’s Discoveries” and the other “Jane’s Conservation Work.” In each column, list supporting facts from the passage. Then, students can write a summary paragraph using their chart to guide them.

