

Lesson Plan #2

Name of Lesson: A Family Tree

Lesson overview:

This lesson is designed to give students experience with graphic organizers using Inspiration as well as the drawing tools on the computer. The Frayer model will be introduced to help students compare and contrast human family interactions with gorilla family interactions. The lesson culminates with a personal family tree exercise that will be included in their portfolio for assessment purposes.

Objectives:

Language Learning	Concept	Strategies
Stating factual information 'Wh' questions Making inferences Vocabulary Development	Relationships: Comparison of human/personal/gorilla familial interactions	Organization- planning the parts, sequence, and main ideas to be expressed in writing. Grouping – classifying words, concepts according to their attributes

Materials: “ Kakinga’s family at the Calgary Zoo” (article)
Frayer model – Family life/Gorilla life
Assignment sheet with evaluation rubric
Overhead projector

Activities: Small group/large group discussion
Responding to graphic organizer (question/answer format)
Reading and questioning
Creating an organizer based on article
Homework assignment – personal family tree
Create evaluation rubric

Teaching Phase:

Part 1: Warm up

- ◆ Vocabulary splash on overhead using words from the article
- ◆ Show words for about 2 minutes, turn off projector, and have students write down all the words they remember
- ◆ Pair students with a partner to share words (alternative: small group sharing)
- ◆ Group discusses words and tries to put them into a paragraph, short story etc... to find the context article they will be reading
- ◆ Large group: share and discuss strategies used to recall words; note on large chart and hang on wall for future reference
- ◆ Assign students to put new vocabulary up on word wall

Part 2: Teaching new language, concepts, and strategies

- ◆ Read article "Kakinga's Family at the Calgary Zoo", highlight all the vocabulary words found from the splash
- ◆ Compare their stories and predictions with the article
- ◆ Mediate the text through Kakinga's Family question sheet and vocabulary activities
- ◆ Guide students to create a family tree using the information they locate in the article. (if possible use CD ROM Inspiration, very useful in creating outlines, webs, etc) *See sample at end of lesson.
- ◆ Using Frayer's model compare families gorilla/human in partners
- ◆ Share with large group, discuss reasoning for their selections, compare/contrast, note responses on overhead or chart for future reference, tie into the issue of endangerment of animals...stability inherent in physical world

Part 3: Practice/reinforcement and extension of new learning

- ◆ Summarize key points of discussion on family life/gorilla life
- ◆ Introduce homework assignment. Creating a personal family tree. Go over expectations and create a class rubric for evaluation.
- ◆ Brainstorm vocabulary needed to complete written portion of assignment

Part 4: Closure

- ◆ Review Kakinga's family tree using the vocabulary through questioning and relate to characteristics discussed in Frayer model
- ◆ Recall strategies students used to remember vocabulary words from splash, have students journal about this activity and their strategy
- ◆ Answer any questions students may have on their homework assignment, demonstrate a sample if needed

Kakinga's Family



Whenever I go to the zoo, I always go to visit the Western Lowland Gorillas. They are among my favourite animals in the Calgary Zoo. They are almost human in the way they play and interact with each other. I spend a lot of time just watching them.

They are the most powerful and largest of all living primates and yet gorillas are peace loving and social animals. Gorillas live in the forests and highlands of central Africa. They live in groups that range from three to thirty individuals. Lowland and mountain gorillas are endangered animals. Poaching, deforestation, the spread of disease and loss of habitat all threaten their survival in the wild. The Calgary Zoo has initiated some projects to keep these noble animals from extinction. In fact, just recently the Zoo opened Destination Africa - the gorillas new home. It is fantastic!

There are currently ten gorillas in Kakinga's family. Kakinga is the silverback- the dominant male of the troop. It is easy to pick him out of the troop because of his large size as well as the silver tipped hair on his back. He is the proud father of four sons and one daughter. Kakinga was born in December 1978.

Mbundi is Kakinga's oldest son. He was born on January 12, 1993. His mother is Tabitha. The zookeepers gave Mbundi his name because it means 'peacemaker'. They hope that Mbundi will assume this role when he is the silverback of his own gorilla family.

Julia is the mother of three children. She is the oldest member of the gorilla troop because she was born in 1970. Ntondo is her oldest son. He was born on February 28, 1993. Ntondo means 'where it all begins'. He is very independent and enjoys playing with his brothers. Two years after she had Ntondo, on October fourth, Julia gave birth to her second son, Nkofi.

The Gorilla Family - An Endangered Species

Nkofi liked lots of attention when he was young. When he was little, Ntondo would lie on his back and toss Mkofi around. He would throw him in the air and catch him.

The youngest member of the troop is Julia's daughter, Barika. She was born on October 18, 2000. Barika was the first female gorilla to be born in captivity. The zookeepers were very excited to have a baby girl in the family. They hope that she will be able to help keep the gorilla population alive by having babies of her own someday.

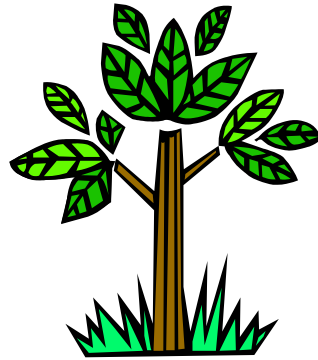
The youngest mother of the troop is Donge. In Swahili, Donge means 'little one'. Donge is the mother of Kakinga's fourth son, Nsabi. Nsabi was born on July 14, 1995. His name mean 'key' in the Congolese language. I think that this is a special name because of all the work the Calgary Zoo has put into protecting these endangered primates is the key to the future of these beautiful animals.

Before Donge had Nsabi, she was very low on the totem pole and was not given a lot of respect by the other female gorillas. Whenever Donge would go near one of the babies, she would be watched very closely. Donge learned a lot from Julia and Tabitha about being a mother just by watching them.

Gorillas are very intelligent animals. They like to play ,explore, and learn. Gorillas are magnificent, peaceful creatures that enjoy being together just like my family. Kakinga has every reason to be proud of his amazing family at the Calgary Zoo.



Personal Family Tree



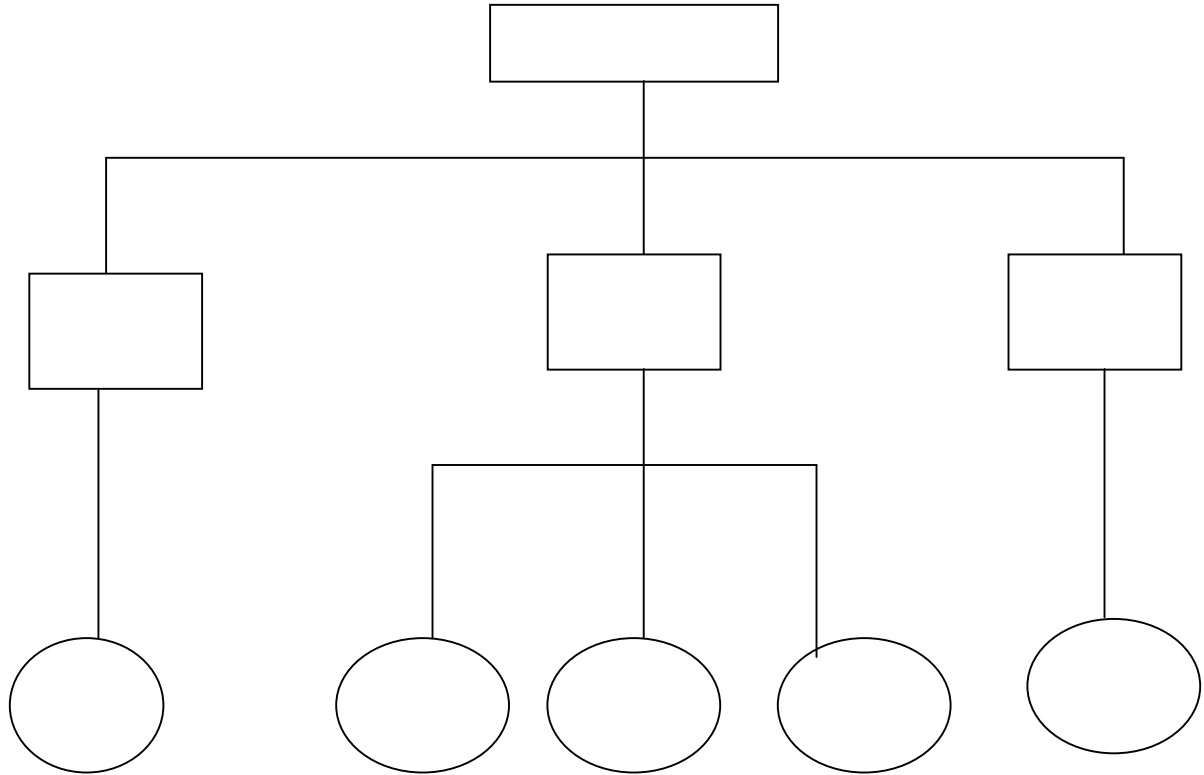
Now that you have learned about the gorilla family and created a family tree for Kakinga's troop, create your own personal family tree for your family.

Start with the oldest member of your family, perhaps your grandparents or your great grandparents! Include the gender (male/female) of each family member and their birth date if you know it. You may use the computer to make your family either a word document or on Inspiration. If you like you can just make a small poster by hand. You decide how to present your family tree. Remember we have to be able to see the family connections!

After you have finished your family tree, write a brief biography of your family. Talk about who is in your family, what their relationship is to you (mother, father, etc) and include something that makes that person unique or special in your family. You may wish to write about things that you like to do with some of your family members.

Use the evaluation rubric to keep yourself on track. This assignment is due on _____ . Don't forget that this assignment will go in your portfolio!

Sample Graphic Organizer for "Kakinga's Family Tree".



"Kakinga's Troop"

Use the family tree to answer the following questions.

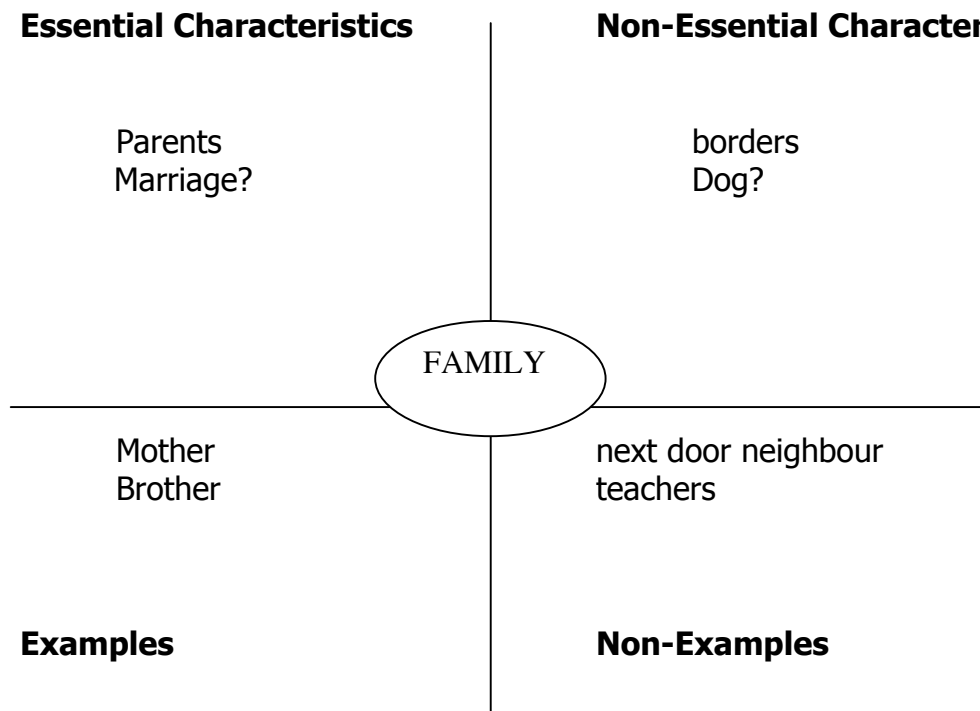
The Gorilla Family - An Endangered Species

1. Who is Nsabi's mother?
2. When was Nkofi born?
3. How many brothers does Barika have?
4. Who is the youngest gorilla?
5. How old is Kakinga?
6. Who is the oldest person in Kakinga's troop?
7. What does "low on the totem pole" mean?
8. How old is Ntondo?
9. How many brothers, stepbrothers and sisters does Nsabi have?
10. When was Nkofi born and how old will he be in the year 2020?
11. Why do you think the zookeepers want Mbundi to be a 'silverback' like his father?
12. What does Ntondo mean?
13. Why was Nsabi was given a special gorilla name?
14. Julia is how much older than Donge?
15. Who is the youngest mother in the troop?

FAMILY LIFE/GORILLA LIFE

The Gorilla Family - An Endangered Species

Create a graphic organizer (Frayer model) like the one below on the overhead projector. Students will have their own personal copy.



In small groups or with a partner, have the students complete the graphic organizer contributing to all 4 spaces.

Solicit suggestions for each quadrant of the model, and record the student responses on the overhead.

Discuss with the students, the reasoning for putting certain words in each quadrant. For example, must family include marriage? Why?

You may want to create a separate model for the gorilla family and compare and contrast. This is an excellent model to guide students in understanding that humanly defined constructs evolve and change over time as well as differ from culture to culture. Comparing the gorilla model will also help them to see the stability inherent in the physical world as well as give them a glimpse of "adaptations" which will come later in this unit.