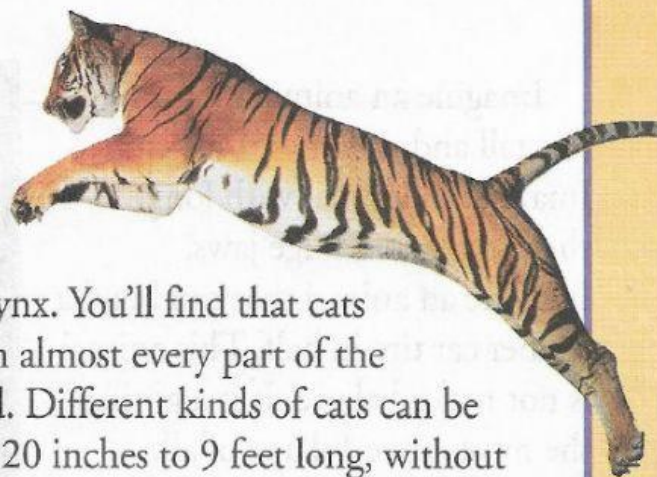


LESSON 18

Making Generalizations

Sometimes when you read, you are given ideas about a group of people, animals, or things. You can use what you have read and what you already know to make a statement about them as a group. This statement might tell how they are alike or mostly alike in some way. Making statements like this can help you understand more about what you read. It can also help you explain what you read to someone else.



Read this passage. Think about a statement you might make about cats as a group.

When someone says *cat*, you probably think of a little furry pet that meows and cuddles up to you. Now think of a cat that is nine feet long, has a three-foot long tail, and weighs 600 pounds! Yes, tigers are cats, too. Besides the house cat and the tiger, the cat family includes jaguars, leopards, lions, cheetahs, pumas,

and lynx. You'll find that cats live in almost every part of the world. Different kinds of cats can be from 20 inches to 9 feet long, without counting that long tail. A house cat usually weighs about 10 pounds. You already know what the tiger weighs!

Fill in the circle next to each statement that is true about cats.

- ☐ Most cats are cuddly.
- ☐ There are many different kinds of cats in the cat family.
- ☐ Cats come in many different sizes from small to very large.

Fill in the circles next to the details that prove the statements you chose above.

- ☐ Most cats can be from 20 inches to 9 feet long.
- ☐ A tiger's tail can be three feet long.
- ☐ The cat family includes house cats, tigers, jaguars, leopards, lions, cheetahs, pumas, and lynx.

Tip

When you read about a group of animals, people, or things, ask yourself: How are all of them alike? What can I say about them as a group? Making a statement to answer these questions will help you remember what you read.



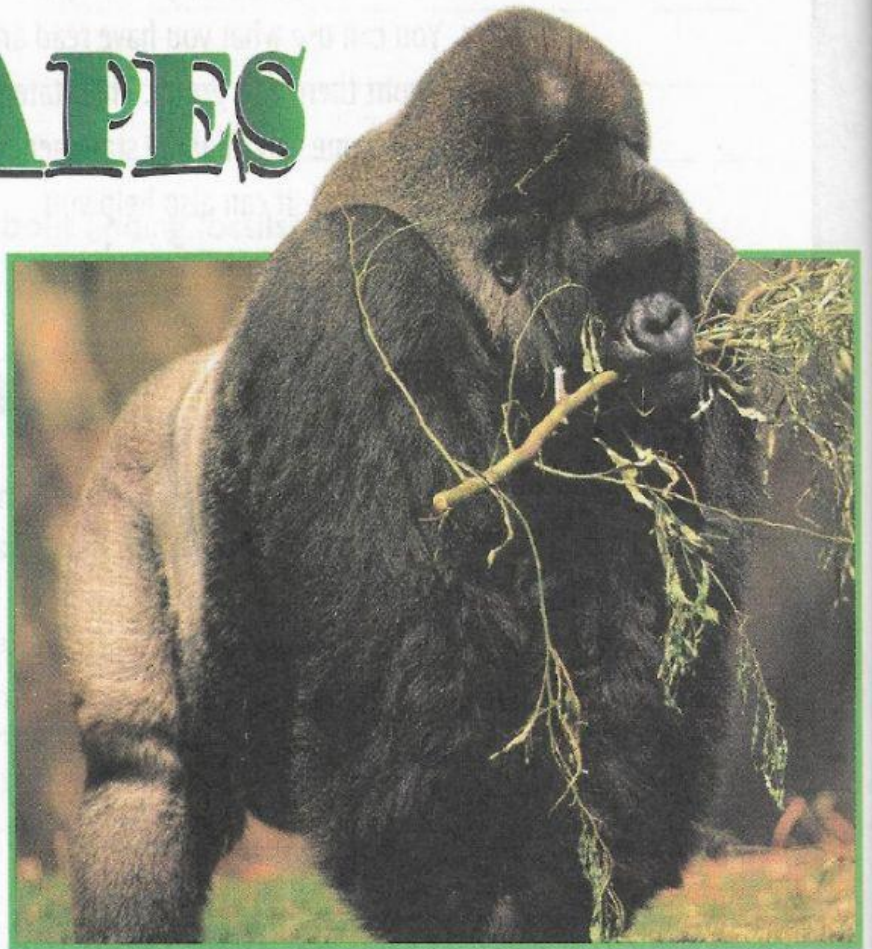
Read this article about gorillas. Think about the ways that all gorillas are alike.

KING of the APES

Imagine an animal that is six feet tall and weighs 450 pounds. Imagine an animal with long, sharp teeth and huge jaws. Imagine an animal that can bend a rubber car tire in half. This animal is not make-believe. It is a gorilla, the most powerful ape of all.

Gorillas look frightening and may seem dangerous, but they are really gentle, shy creatures who hardly ever fight. They eat bamboo shoots and wild celery, not other animals. They like to eat, sleep, and play with their babies. They also like to groom each other. They look at each other's fur and take out insects and dirt. These huge animals actually live quite peaceful lives.

Gorillas like to spend time with other gorillas. They live in groups called troops, which usually include 10 to 15 gorillas. The leader of the troop is a large, older male that has silver hair on its back. He is called a silverback. A troop also has females, their babies, and a few young males.



Gorillas travel together looking for food. They travel on the ground, walking on their feet and on the knuckles of their hands. The silverback decides where they will go. If he sees danger, he roars and slaps his chest, causing other animals to get scared and run away. At night the gorillas make nests of leaves and grass. They sleep in trees or on the ground.

Gorillas are not only strong, they are also very smart. They learn quickly. In fact, one famous gorilla has even learned to talk to people by using sign language!

Checking Comprehension

1. Why might people be scared if they came face to face with a gorilla?

2. What qualities do all gorillas have?

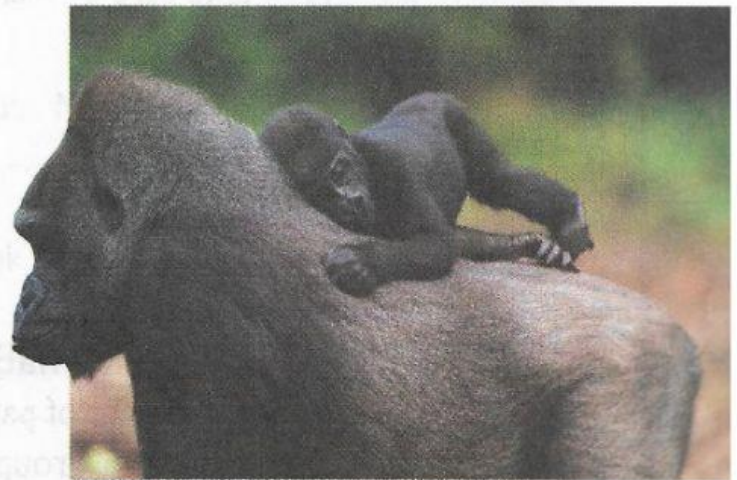
Practicing Comprehension Skills

Put a check next to the statement you believe to be true after reading "King of the Apes."

- 3. Huge animals that look frightening are dangerous.
- 4. Gorillas are animals that need to live together in a community.
- 5. All animals live in troops with a leader.

Put a check next to each fact that proves this statement to be true.

- 6. Gorillas live in groups called troops.
- 7. Gorillas eat, sleep, and play with their babies.
- 8. Gorillas groom each other.
- 9. Gorillas eat plants.
- 10. Gorillas travel together looking for food.
- 11. One famous gorilla learned sign language.



Read this statement about gorillas: **Gorillas are smart animals.**

12. What details from the article make you think this is true?

13. Finish this sentence to make another statement about gorillas.

Gorillas are _____ animals.

☐ peaceful ☐ violent ☐ lazy ☐ angry

What details from the article helped you to decide this?

Practicing Vocabulary

Write a word from the box that belongs in each group.

frightening groom knuckles dangerous silverback troop peaceful

- _____ 14. not safe, risky
- _____ 15. leader, older male gorilla
- _____ 16. scary, terrifying
- _____ 17. take care of, make clean
- _____ 18. quiet, calm
- _____ 19. group, herd
- _____ 20. hands, fingers



Writing an Informative Paragraph

On another sheet of paper, write a paragraph about an interesting animal group. Make statements that tell how the animals in this group are alike or mostly alike in some way.