

PHILADELPHIA ZOO

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Animal Adaptations (Pre-K-2)

Essential Question

Why do different animals have different body parts?

Objectives

1. Know definition of adaptation and learn some examples of adaptations.
2. Know why adaptations are important and how they help a species to thrive.

Vocabulary

Adaptation: The ways animal species adjust or change to be able to live where and how they do. Many species can only live in certain places because of their specific adaptations.

Environment: The surrounding habitat with features an animal needs to survive.

Recommendations

Read: [Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed](#) – Mo Willems

[Giraffes Can't Dance](#) – Giles Andreae

Research: -Unique adaptations that students see in animals they have as pets.

-Unique adaptations that students will see in animals they research

Discuss: What are some special adaptations that humans have?

What might be different about our lives if we had different adaptations?

Classroom Activity

Compare/Contrast: Have students compare and contrast humans and other animals using the included worksheets.

- This activity may be done individually or in groups and can be modified for younger students.
- Students should read through the information on their animal, then fill in the diagram comparing and contrasting that animal with themselves.
- When choosing an animal for the blank worksheet, we encourage students to think of an animal they are very familiar with. Pets are a great option, as well as any local wildlife they see regularly.

Individually: After completing their comparisons, have students with the same animals work in pairs to share their answers with one another. Pairs can then work together to complete the same activity with an animal of their choosing, using the blank worksheet.

In groups: After completing the worksheet, groups should present their findings to the class. Groups should then work together to completely the same activity with an animal of their choosing, using the blank worksheet.

For younger students: Instructor should lead the entire class through one of the comparison worksheets. The activity can be repeated with an animal of their choosing, either individually or as a class.

Standards

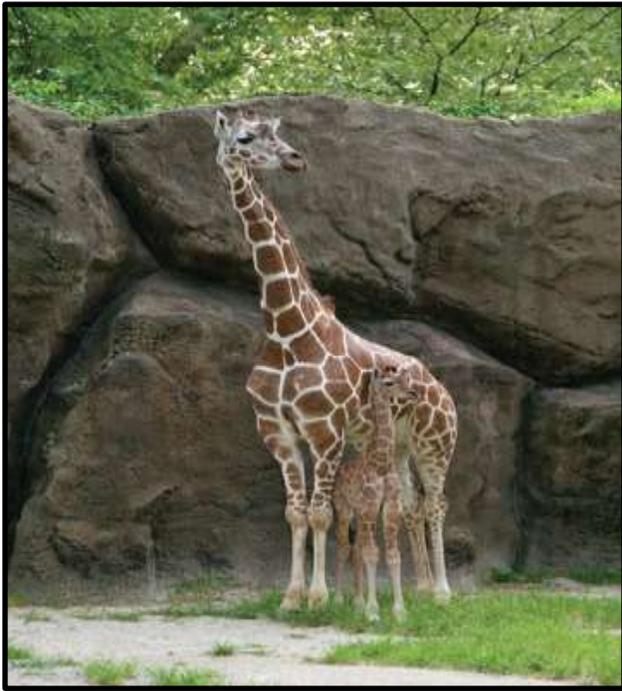
PA Academic: 3.1 A5, 3.1 B1, 3.1 C2, 4.1 D, 4.1 E

Next Generation Science: K-LS1-1, 2-LS4-1, 1-LS1-1, 1-LS1-2, 1-LS3-1

New Jersey Core Curriculum: 5.1, 5.3A, 5.3D, 5.3E, 5.4 G

Common Core: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.4, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7, CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.3

Amazing Adaptations



I am a **giraffe!**

I live in **Africa**. It is **hot** and **sunny** there.

I like to eat **leaves**.

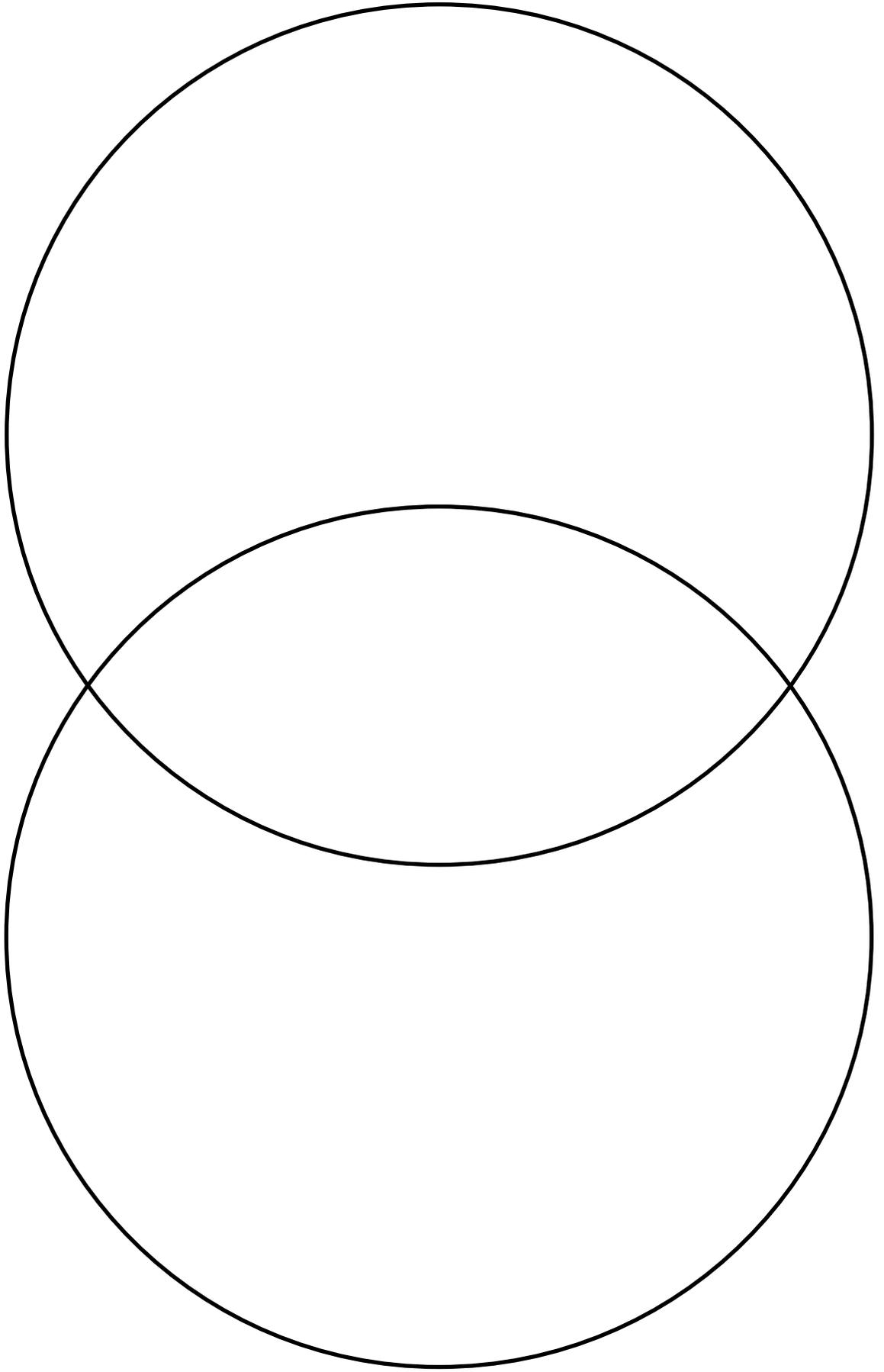
I have **hair** covering my body.

I am **brown, yellow, and white**.

I have **long legs, big ears, and a very long neck**. I also have a **really long tongue!**

I like to live with **other giraffes like me**.

People
(you!)



Amazing Adaptations



I am a **flamingo**!

I live in the **Caribbean**. It is **hot** and **sunny** there.

I like to eat **plants and shrimp**.

I have **feathers** covering my body.

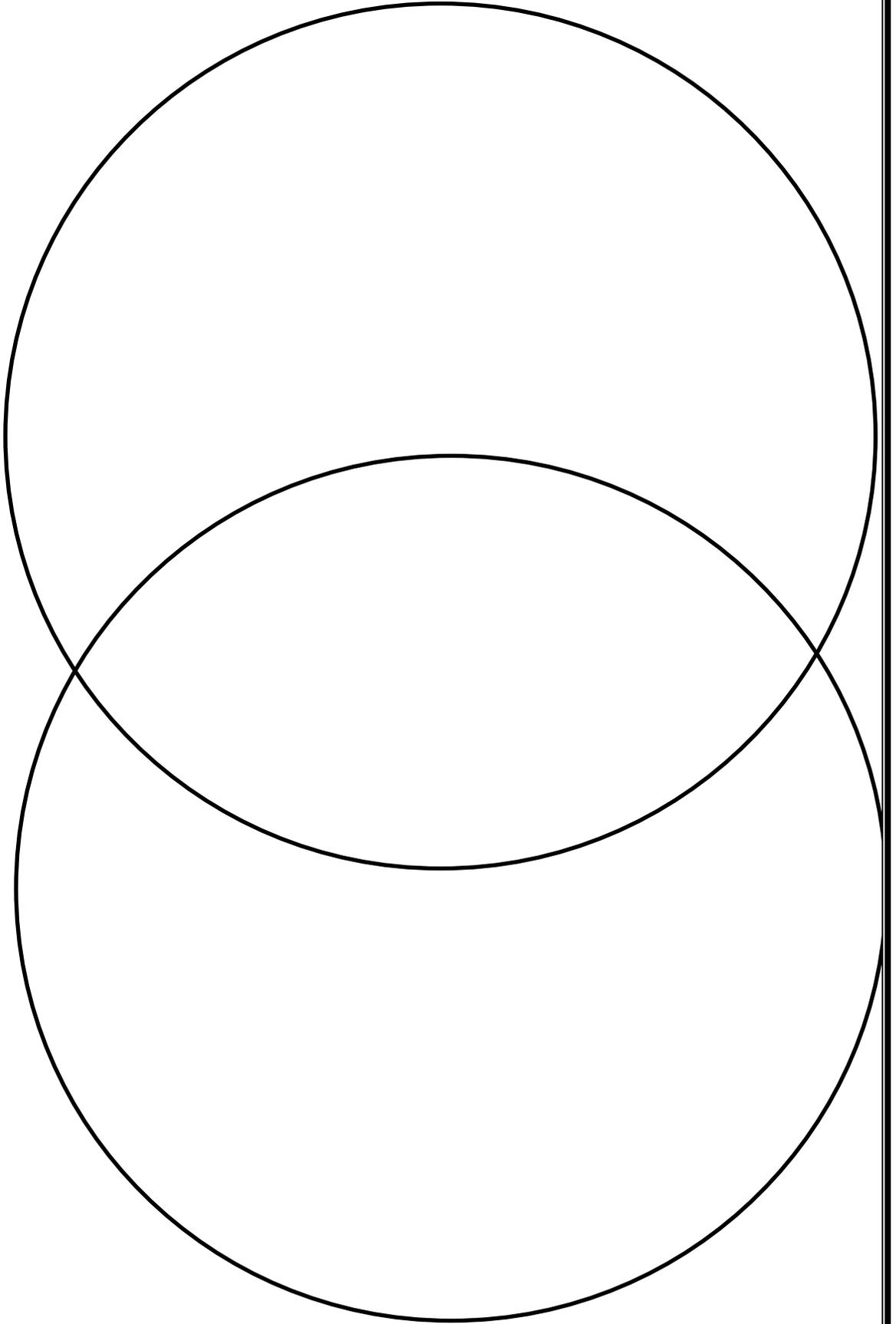
I am **pink and white**.

I have **long legs, a big beak, and a very long neck**. I also have **really big wings**!

I like to live with **other flamingos like me**. I talk to other flamingos by **dancing** and **squawking**.



People
(you!)



Amazing Adaptations



I am a **king cobra snake**!

I live in **Asia**. It is **hot** and **rainy** there.

I like to eat smaller **snakes**.

I have **scales** covering my body.

I am **black and tan**.

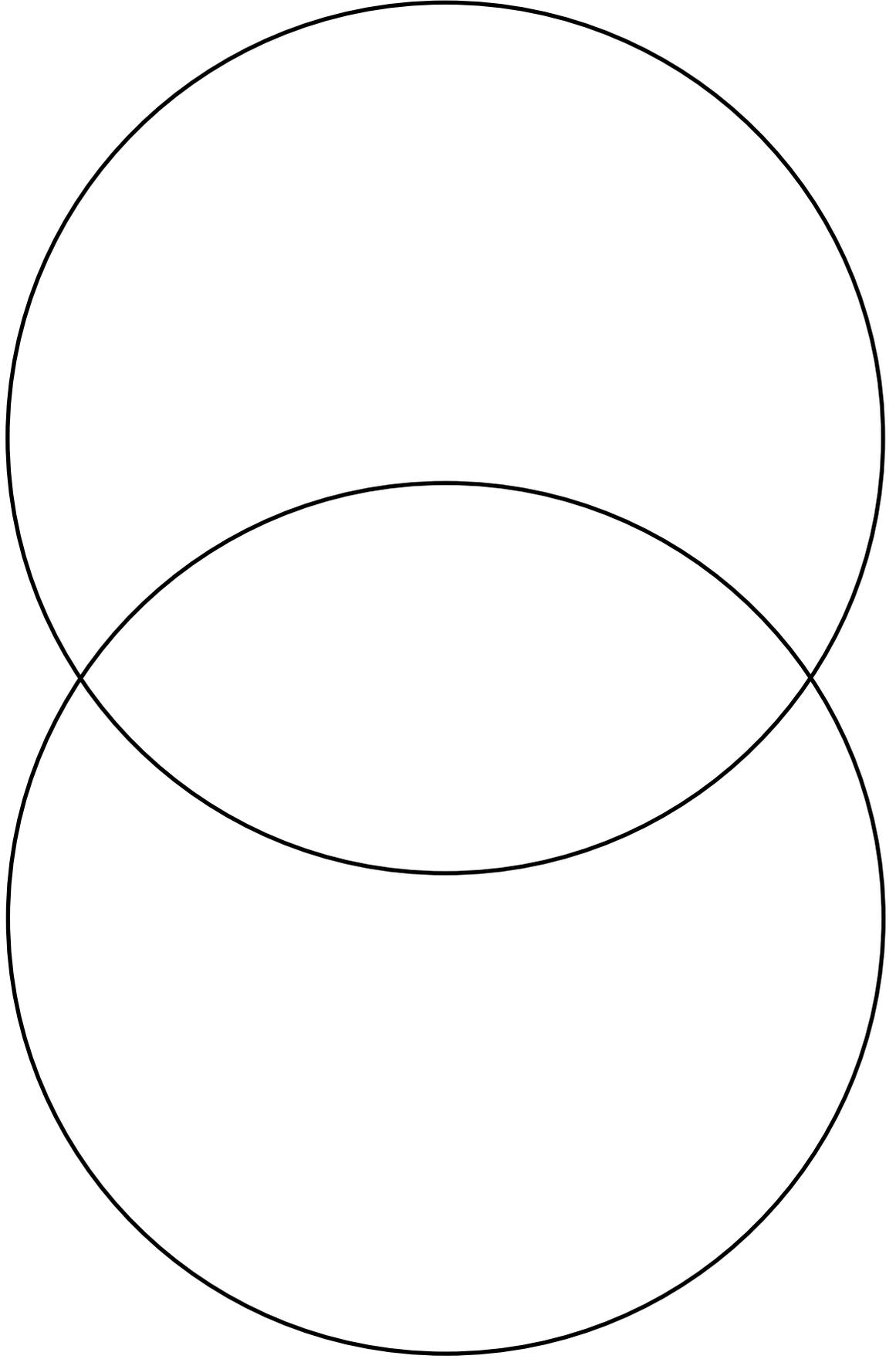
I have **no legs, a long tail, and a very long body**. I also have a **really long tongue!**

I can **lift up my head and body** really high off the ground. Some of us can lift our heads up to **5 feet!**

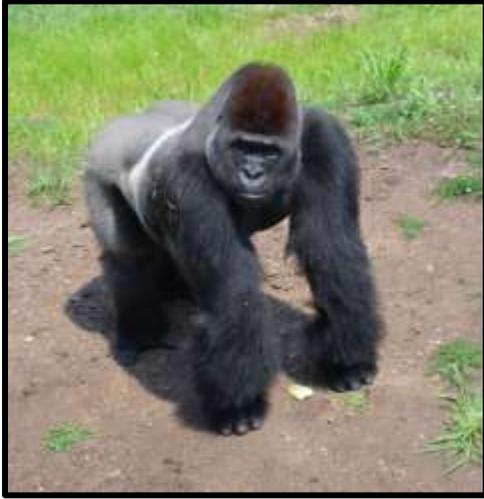
I like to live **by myself.**



People
(you!)



Amazing Adaptations



I am a **gorilla**!

I live in **Africa**. It is **hot** and **sunny** there.

I like to eat **leaves and fruits**.

I have **hair** covering my body.

I am **black and gray**.

I have **strong arms and legs, no tail, and thumbs**. I am also **very big**!

I am **really smart** and know how to **use tools**. I also can be **happy, sad, angry, scared, and curious**!

I like to live with **other gorillas like me**.



People
(you!)

