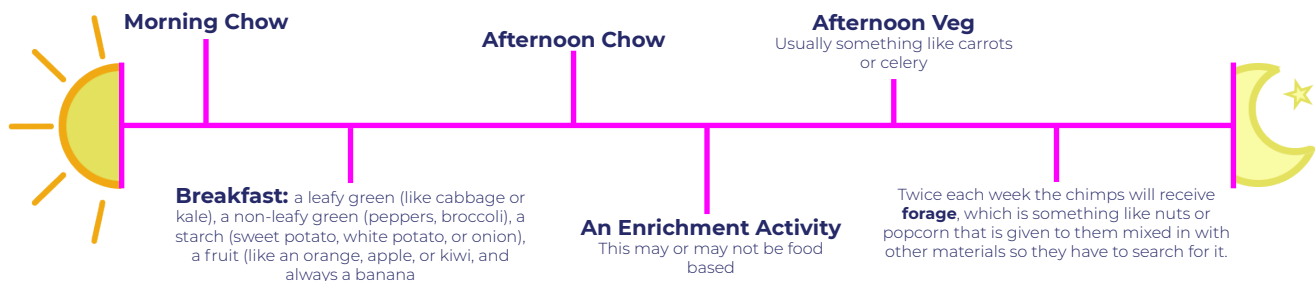


Chimpanzee Diets



What is a chimpanzee diet?

- Chimpanzees eat a wide variety of foods in the wild.
- Chimpanzees are omnivores, which means they eat plants and animals.
- At Chimp Haven, chimpanzees receive a nutritional diet that a team of animal care staff prepare each day with lots of chopping and measuring!
- At Chimp Haven the chimpanzee diet is made up of chow (a chimp protein biscuit), leafy greens (like kale), non-leafy greens (like cucumbers), starches (like potatoes), fruits (like bananas!), forage (like nuts and seeds), and sometimes food enrichment.
- The chimpanzees don't get human treats like pizza and ice cream in their diets, but they may receive sugar-free popsicles or natural fruit snacks.
- Chimp Haven sources local seasonal produce, and also grows its own with fruit trees and a greenhouse.
- The chimpanzees may receive novel fruit treats like kiwi. The first time the colony received it they didn't know what it was! It became a resident favorite once they realized it was edible.
- Last year the colony went through 200,000 pounds of produce! How many pounds of produce do you think your family ate last year?
- Chimp Haven's veterinarian helps decide what each chimp group eats to maintain a happy and healthy colony. She does this by looking at caloric intake and considering things like age and activity level.
- Each chimpanzee troop has a labeled bucket marked with the number of family members. The labels help staff weigh out and distribute the diets.
- The chimpanzees receive their diets mostly outdoors either in their habitat or on a trough (like a table) outside of their habitats. Feeding outside means that animal care staff can spread out diets ensuring each chimpanzee gets their share.



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What is chow?

- Chimpanzees need protein. Some vegetables like kale and broccoli are rich in protein, but the sanctuary includes a supplement to ensure the colony stays strong and healthy!
- Chow is a primate protein biscuit, and it's an important part of the chimpanzee diet at the sanctuary. Think of a nutrient rich cookie or cereal bar!
- Last year the colony went through 137,000 pounds of chow!
- The chimpanzees are fed chow twice a day.
- The chimpanzees like to stuff a whole bunch of chow into their mouths and then soak them with water. This is called a "wadge."
- Some chimpanzees only put a few chow biscuits into their mouth at one time while others put up to TWENTY!



What is a chimpanzee's favorite food?

- Chimpanzees have likes and dislikes just like humans.
- The chimps are known to turn their noses up at zucchini and yellow squash, but otherwise, there's not much they won't eat!
- Okra and romaine lettuce are examples of some of their favorite leafy greens. While most prefer other leafy greens to kale, Betsy will trade her banana in for a serving!
- Bananas are the ultimate favorite, and they get one each day!
- Chimp Haven goes through about 150 pounds of bananas each day and 50,000 pounds every year! That's a LOT of bananas.
- Bananas are usually passed out one by one to the chimpanzees to make sure everyone gets theirs. Animal care staff will always put a few extra in the diet buckets just in case there is a banana thief.
- Some chimpanzees peel their bananas, like we do (watch out for Sheba...she'll try to return the empty peel for a refill)! Some will even refuse bananas without peels while others eat them skin and all.

What is Chimp Haven?

- Chimp Haven is a big sanctuary where chimpanzees live together in family groups, also known as troops.
- Chimp Haven is located in Louisiana.
- More than 300 chimpanzees live at Chimp Haven today!



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Let's Go Bananas

Work with an adult to create a banana inspired treat fit for a chimpanzee and your whole troop to enjoy!

Suggested Ingredients

- Bananas
- Granola
- Chopped nuts
- Dried coconut
- Dried or fresh fruits like blackberries, blueberries, and raspberries
- Yogurt
- Peanut butter
- Mini marshmallows

Steps

Step 1

Peel the banana or leave the peel on to help hold in the goodies!

Step 2

Slice your banana down the center.

Step 3

Add in your toppings for the ultimate banana snack.

Step 4

Grab a spoon and dig in!



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Feed the Colony

There are 20 chimpanzees in Flora's troop. Each member needs a banana! Help animal care staff member, Frank, hand out the chimpanzees' favorite fruit!

Color in the bananas as you go to help you keep track!

Frank walks up to the habitat and finds Arden, Passion, and Carlee.. After he hands each of them their bananas, how many will Frank have left?

There are ____ bananas left.

Natalie, Valentina Rose, and Tracy are high up in the trees. They climb down and grab their bananas.

There are ____ bananas left.

Frank hands out a banana to Sara Soda and Muffy. Oh no! Sara Soda swipes Muffy's banana. Frank waits a moment and then replaces Muffy's with another.

There are ____ bananas left.

Candy, Flora, and Diane are inside the bedroom. Frank calls out and they run down and grab their bananas.

There are ____ bananas left.

Frank spots Mackensie, Dea, Danielle, and Mason in a grooming session. The group takes a break to grab their bananas.

There are ____ bananas left.

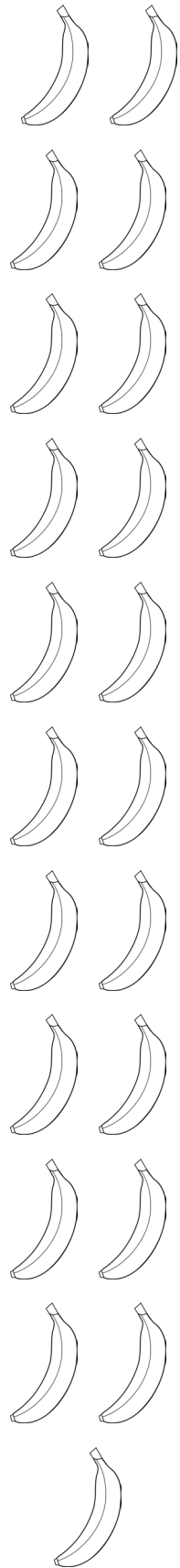
Nope, Tosha, and Gina are so excited to receive their favorite treat!

There are ____ bananas left.

Frank is almost done! He calls Jimmy Dean and Megan to the top of the habitat.

There are ____ bananas left.

All of the chimpanzees now have their favorite treat!



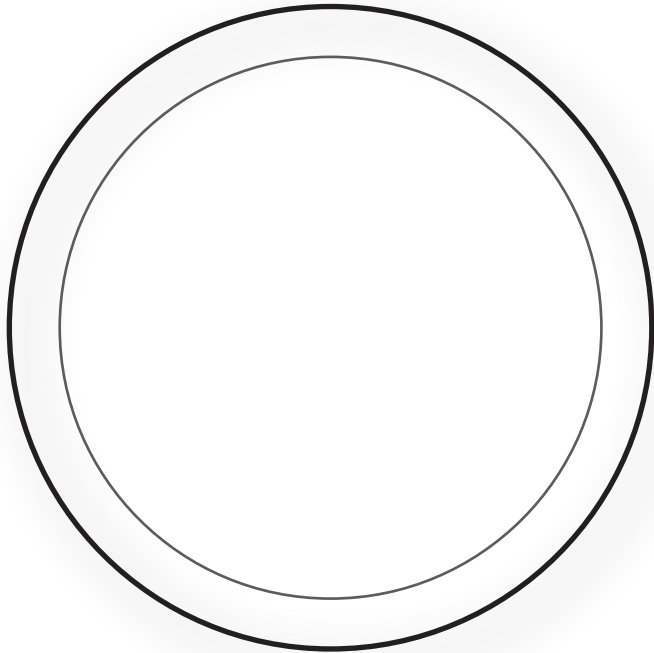
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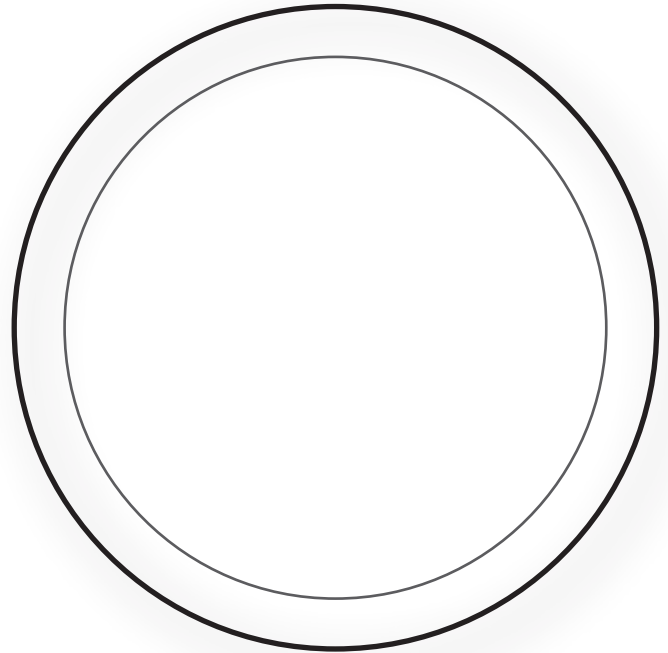
What's for Lunch?

Chimpanzees and humans thrive on a balanced diet of protein, fruits and vegetables to name a few. Draw a nutritious meal for yourself. Then, draw a nutritious meal for a chimpanzee!

Chimpanzee Lunch



Your Lunch



Are there any similarities between your meal and the chimpanzees?
List what you drew!

Key Terms



- **Diet** (di·et) – type of food that animals, people or groups usually eat
- **Nutrition** (nu·tri·tion) – the nourishment that animals and people receive from healthy food
- **Chow** – a primate protein biscuit or nutrient rich cookie
- **Seasonal** (sea·son·al) – only available certain times of year



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