



This lesson is inspired by Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) principles.

In this lesson, students will learn what a chimpanzee needs in their habitat to thrive and will be able to recognize that each chimpanzee is an individual with unique feelings and needs.

What is a chimpanzee?

- A chimpanzee is a type of Great Ape.
- Humans are Great Apes too! So are gorillas and orangutans.
- Some people think chimps are monkeys, but they're not. An easy way to tell the difference between a monkey and an ape is that monkeys have tails and apes do not.

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!

What is a habitat?

- A habitat is a chimp's home.
- Chimp habitats are outside with lots of trees and open space.
- At Chimp Haven, the habitats include fun play structures for the chimps to climb and hang out on.
- Chimps like to play, climb trees, and find yummy snacks like nuts and berries in their habitat.
- The habitats at Chimp Haven are surrounded by water, which is called a "moat." The chimps like to hang out with their friends by the moat and dip their hands in to get a drink of water.
- Even though the chimps enjoy their moat, they don't like to swim. Their heavy body composition makes it hard for them to swim, so the moat creates a natural barrier to keep them safe in their habitat.
- Chimp Haven creates chimp habitats to make residents feel at home!
- All chimps have individual likes and dislikes; they even have different



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things that make them feel comfortable! While one chimp may love to climb way up high in the trees another chimp may prefer to hang out on the ground with friends instead.

- The chimps spend their time within their habitat the way they want to each and every day.
- Other wildlife like raccoons, bunnies, and birds also live in the habitats.
- The chimps like to build nests in their habitats. Nests are nice, comfy places where the chimps like to nap or relax. They may make nests out of leaves, branches, blankets, and even toys! In the wild, chimps sometimes make their nests up in the trees.
- Humans have habitats too. Think about your home; what are three things you like to do in your 'habitat'?



Learn more about habitats

- Watch the video below and read the blog post to learn more about how the chimps use their habitats at Chimp Haven.
- Download the activities and make your own chimp habitat at home!
- Share your habitat with us on social media @ChimpHaven.



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Close your eyes and imagine that you are Kaya and it's your first time in a new habitat! What would you want to see? What would make you feel excited, curious and secure? Use your imagination to draw the habitat!



Forage for materials in your home to build a shadow box habitat for the residents at Chimp Haven!

Use any of the suggested materials or branch out to create the perfect space!

Suggested Materials

Toilet paper rolls	Paint
Shoebox	Sticks, grass, rocks or other things found in nature
Matchbox	Scissors
Popsicle sticks	Glue
Cotton balls	Construction paper
Felt	
Markers	



Step 1

Make a plan! What do you want to put in your habitat? Think about everything the chimps need. What is in your habitat that makes you feel comfortable? Do the chimpanzees need some of those same things in their habitat?

Step 2

Look for materials around your home.

Step 3

Get started! Use your imagination to make your chimp's habitat a home. While you're building your habitat think about each item you're adding. What about that item will make the chimpanzee feel secure and comfortable?



Exploring New Spaces

Read the blog post "[Hobbes and Friends in the Habitat](#)" to learn about Hobbes's group of six experiencing one of Chimp Haven's multi-acre forested habitats for the first time. Once you've read you'll learn about their big move, the emotions they might have been feeling, and some of the things they did to adapt!

Even though it was their first time in the habitat, each chimp had their own unique experience. What did each chimp do? How were their reactions and behaviors similar and how were they different?



Bart



Cybill



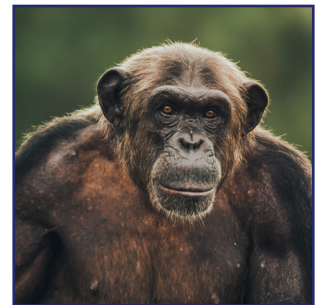
Hobbes



Kaya



Maxi



Taffy

Think about one of your first times in a new place. School, a friend's house, a new home or even a new city! Did you feel and experience things like Hobbes's group? Use the wheel below to color in some of the emotions you felt. Remember that everyone faces a range of emotions as unique as the individual. Is there a chimp from Hobbes's group that you relate to? What about their habitat experience felt familiar to you?



Exploring New Spaces Activity

Your Experience



Key Terms



- **Troop** – chimpanzee families and friends that live together
- **Habitat** (hab·i·tat) – an outdoor chimp home that has shelter, water, food and space
- **Forage** (for·age) – when chimps search for food in their habitat
- **Nest** – chimps create nests in which to sleep or rest
- **Patrol** (pa·trol) – when a chimp group walks around their habitat to make sure all is well
- **Confidence** (con·fi·dence) – feeling certain about something
- **Reassurance** (re·as·sur·ance) – making someone feel better and less afraid
- **Hesitant** (hes·i·tant) – to be unsure about something

