



Orangutan

Pongo abelli x pygmaeus



Max

I was born on March 6th, 1986 at the Henry Vilas Zoo and came to the Racine Zoo on September 3rd, 1986.

I live in the Vanishing Kingdom with my half-sister, Jenny! You can tell us apart because I am much bigger, and have large cheek flaps and long dark hair. I like to hang out on my blue barrels, and like to make art with sidewalk chalk and water in my home.

Jenny

I was born on May 15th, 1985 at the Henry Vilas Zoo and came to the Racine Zoo on September 3rd, 1986.

I live in the Vanishing Kingdom with my half-brother, Max! One of my favorite places to relax is in my hammock. In the mornings, I like to watch my keepers clean the glass, and mimic their movements by wiping the inside glass with my own pieces of fabric.



ORANGUTANS AT A GLANCE



- Having **arms longer than their legs** and **super-flexible hips** helps them move easily through the treetops, even with a baby clinging tight!
- In the wild, they eat fruit, plant matter, insects, and eggs.
- At the zoo, they eat fruits, plants, eggs, and insects.
- **Feet with opposable toes** act more like hands, allowing orangutans to move easily among the treetops.
- Males use their **long throat sacs** to amplify their territory and mating calls through the thick rainforest, much like a megaphone.



Female:
45" tall
80-130 lbs



Male:
54" tall
190-290 lbs

Cheek pads on dominant males

Up to 7 ft. wingspan

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 35-40 years
Avg. life expectancy in human care: 50-60+ years

WHERE ARE NATIVE ORANGUTAN HABITATS LOCATED?



All three species of orangutan - Bornean, Sumatran, and Tapanuli - are the only great apes that live outside of Africa. Historically, they lived across mainland Asia from India to southern China, Vietnam, the Malay peninsula, and the island of Java. Today, all three species are only found in small fragments in Borneo and Sumatra, where they live in lowland forests.

Orangutan Behaviors

SLEEPING

Orangutans sleep at night in arboreal nests that they construct, and usually move to a new spot every night. They bend branches together to form a platform - it only takes about 5 minutes to build.

My keepers give me a combination of things to help me build my nest!



CALLING

Orangutans communicate using a variety of vocalizations including grumblings and bellowing, loud calls, and smacking sounds.

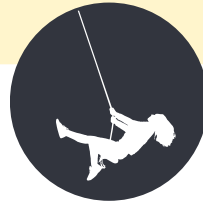
I use these calls to communicate with other orangutans, as well as let my keepers know how I'm feeling.



SWINGING

Orangutans can brachiate—swing hand over hand—but they normally move cautiously through large trees by climbing and walking. This allows them to distribute their weight among the branches.

I spend most of my day swinging around the ropes of my home.



ARTS & CRAFTS

Many orangutans are known to be creative, with talents in sidewalk chalk art, jewelry making, and even fabric weaving.

Some of our favorite arts and crafts projects include painting with our keepers or drawing with sidewalk chalk in our habitat!

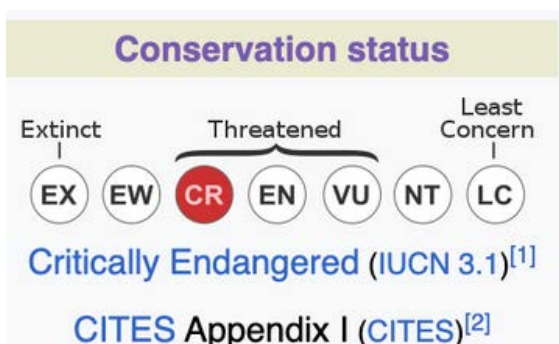


- “Orang” means person and “hutan” means forest, thus, orangutan literally translates to “person of the forest.”
- There are three subspecies of orangutan: the Sumatran Orangutan (*Pongo abelli*), the Borneo Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), and Tapanuli Orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*). The orangutans at the Racine Zoo are hybrids of Sumatran and Borneo.
- Orangutans are arboreal, meaning they spend the majority of their lives in the tree canopy and rarely descend to the ground.
- The arms of an orangutan are longer than the length of its body. They use their palms or fists to walk on all four limbs.

Orangutan Conservation

Orangutans face an extensive list of threats to their habitats and populations including fires, logging, poaching, hunting, and oil palm farming.

Orangutans are currently listed as **critically endangered**. There is high concern with this species due to extensive habitat loss.



How can we help?

Orangutans in wild habitats are losing their homes due to palm oil production, so download the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Palm Oil app to see if the products you use are made with sustainable palm oil - and make the switch if they aren't!

When buying wood and paper products, look for the Forest Stewardship Council logo on packaging. This lets you know the item you are purchasing has been made in a way that protects our planet's forests and supports local communities!