



# Gorillas Up Close

*By Christena Nippert-Eng*

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Have you ever wondered how experts train a gorilla? Or what design features make a great gorilla habitat? Did you know that some gorillas can solve problems on giant touch-screen computers?

Filled with facts and photos, *Gorillas Up Close* takes us into the world of gorillas. Explore the differences between gorillas in zoos and in the wild with the gorilla family troop in Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. Readers will delight in the similarities gorillas share with humans while finding out more about these incredible animals.

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## Gorillas Up Close By Christena Nippert-Eng Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4 Up—In this visually arresting work, Nippert-Eng bridges the gap between gorillas and humans. Using contemporary and relatable terms (for instance, "A gorilla family is often a blended family" and "Kwan tickles his children with his teeth the way a human dad might with his hands"), the book begins with commonalities between humans and gorillas before branching off to explore biological and emotional differences. This beautifully photographed examination of the gorilla troop living in captivity at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo brings their habitat alive with a variety of shots and perspectives. So many of the animals' facial expressions are captured throughout the book, driving home what the author also seeks to convey with words: gorillas are not so different from humans. Readers will enjoy seeing happiness, puzzlement, concentration, and more articulated on each face. Subject matter includes the expected (habitat, diet, and care for this endangered species) to the delightfully unanticipated (how to identify a gorilla and tips for watching and photographing). An extensive, usable index guides those readers doing homework or school projects. **VERDICT** The latest in engaging animal nonfiction for upper elementary and middle school collections. Highly recommended.—Chelsea Woods, New Brunswick Free Public Library, NJ

## Review

"A fascinating, eye-opening introduction to gorillas, particularly those living in captivity." *?Booklist*, **starred review**, on *Gorillas Up Close*

"In this visually arresting work, Nippert-Eng bridges the gap between gorillas and humans. . . Subject matter includes the expected (habitat, diet, and care for this endangered species) to the delightfully unanticipated (how to identify a gorilla and tips for watching and photographing). . . engaging animal nonfiction for upper elementary and middle school collections. Highly recommended." *?School Library Journal* on *Gorillas Up Close*

"The photos really steal the show . . . a series of portraits?including "formal" head shots?capture not just individual facial features (as diverse as any group of humans) and an amazing range of expressions, but also a powerful, dignified presence in each of about two dozen primates." *?Kirkus Reviews* on *Gorillas Up Close*

## About the Author

**Christena Nippert-Eng** is a sociologist and Professor of Informatics at Indiana University-Bloomington. She has been watching zoo gorillas and teaching students how to do so for almost twenty years.  
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