

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

General Level Reading—Article, “Chimps go ape in zoo” by Adam Forrest, is taken from Pages 20-21 of *The Big Issue*, May 1-7, 2008, No. 680. Reproduced by kind permission of *The Big Issue*.

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NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS
2010

THURSDAY, 29 APRIL
1.00 PM – 1.50 PM

ENGLISH
STANDARD GRADE
General Level
Reading
Text

Read carefully the passage overleaf. It will help if you read it twice. When you have done so, answer the questions. Use the spaces provided in the Question/Answer booklet.



CHIMPS GO APE IN ZOO

Ricky, Kindia, Quarzeh and all the rest—meet the chimpanzees who are now hanging out in Edinburgh's new plush £5.6 million property.

1 **R**icky is munching slowly on the yellow of a hard-boiled egg, staring at the funny-looking fellow-primate on the other side of the glass. The 47-year-old chimpanzee once travelled the high seas on a merchant navy ship. Today he looks content, if slightly tired by the adventures of his youth. Crouching to introduce myself, I feel the urge to make small talk. "Hello Ricky . . . erm . . . enjoying your lunch?" He pauses, lifts an eyebrow in a recognisably snooty gesture, before turning to the more pressing business of scooping out the white of the egg from its cracked shell.

2 Ricky and the 10 other chimps at Edinburgh Zoo have every reason to feel a little superior. They have just moved into a state-of-the-art, air-conditioned, £5.6m luxury pad. Budongo Trail, which opens officially this weekend, is the largest chimpanzee enclosure in the world, and offers Ricky and his friends a higher standard of living than most humans will ever enjoy.

3 The complex is made up of three huge interconnected pods which open up into a gardened forest zone, complete with the longest, most intricate climbing frame ever built for apes. There's even a moat, which stops the water-shy chimps venturing too far, as well as adding to the sense of baronial splendour. Although the chimps are under observation,

the place looks like too much fun to merit any comparison with the Big Brother house. It's more like a Crystal Maze set or the glamorous island hideaway of a James Bond baddie.

4 "They've moved from an ordinary house to a millionaire's mansion," beams Stephen Woollard, as he shows me round the place, justifiably proud of the structure he helped design. The education manager from the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland says the idea of a network that allowed scientists to study chimps in something like their natural environment was first proposed in the 1960s. He seems delighted this has finally been realised so spectacularly.

5 "Zoos have moved on from the old idea of looking at things lined up in cages, but we wanted to move it on further and set a whole new standard," he says. "It was something of a leap of faith, but the reaction has been tremendous. Everyone who sees the place says, 'Oh this is fantastic.'"

6 As we walk through the interactive exhibits, Woollard stops to explain how a cartoon game called Eddie Says, which lets children learn chimp gestures, was based on physical movements of none other than the zoologist himself. "Yes, they copied me, so I had to do all this sort of thing . . ." In an instant, Woollard becomes the perfect chimp, scrambling and hopping noisily



around on the floor. "You see, it shouldn't be like a museum, where everything is hands-off. The kids will be running around, touching everything, as they should," he says.

7 Although the place appears to be one giant playground, the long glass frames of the enclosure pods also allow for serious study of animal behaviour. The project is linked to the conservation work of the Budongo Forest in north-west Uganda, where a team of researchers are gaining a better understanding of the threats faced by the forest's 600 or so chimpanzees. The population is falling because of habitat destruction and traps set for bush meat. The Royal Zoological Society of Scotland has been the primary sponsor of the African field station for the last three years, and many at Edinburgh Zoo have travelled there to gain further insight into chimp-life in the wild.

Characteristics of people

8 Laura McHugh is one of the lucky zoo-keeping researchers.

The 23-year-old used her Ugandan adventure to learn how to differentiate between chimps. "It was amazing to see how the guys over there recognised each of the chimps, knew their date of birth, and who was related to who," she enthuses. When McHugh came back to Scotland, it didn't take long to identify the zoo's residents. "You begin to recognise broad shoulders, say, or a slight beard. Now, to me, they have the characteristics of people."

9 The team at Budongo Trail cottoned on to the idea of giving the chimps celebrity status. There's Kindia, the boy-crazy teenager, and Lucy, the greedy guts of the gang. Visitors can even buy a glossy monthly magazine called Ape Vine!, packed full of the latest Budongo gossip. It's a good gimmick, but the personalities are far from manufactured. As we stare down into pod three, Quarzeh, the boisterous alpha male, is teaching nine-year-old Liberius how to tear up an egg carton. "It's too early to tell, but Liberius is potentially a

future dominant male," McHugh explains. "He's still quite skinny though, so it's mostly just play-fights with his friend Kindia at the moment."

10 Ricky is also proving true to form as the loner with a shady past, eating lunch up on the glass window ledge, interacting with us rather than his hairy housemates. "Possibly because he was at sea, he does like being near humans," says McHugh. "But since coming to the Budongo Trail, he does engage in grooming a bit more." Professor Woollard concurs: "Yes, he's had a bad start in life, and picked up some bad habits, but he's become more at ease."

Chimp culture

11 Staff say the apes are happier than ever before. The ceilings are four times as high as the zoo's previous enclosure, and even the soil is altered to copy the changing smells and textures of the wild. The sheer size of the place allows them freedom to separate in groups, spend time alone, or come together again to communicate.

12 "They do have the basics of language, and we're trying to discover what kind of level of language they have," Woollard explains. "It is possible there are many different dialects, since the dialect here in Edinburgh is different from chimps in Chester, or in Uganda. Do chimps have culture? We don't have all the answers." Chimp life reveals fresh marvels on a daily basis. Woollard believes visitors can help build a more complete behavioural picture by noting the quirks of the Budongo 11 as they go about their business. So, if you see Ricky when you visit Edinburgh Zoo, do say hello. The pleasantries might well have a purpose.

By Adam Forrest

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