

A Mom for Umande

Written by Maria Faulconer
Illustrated by Susan Kathleen Hartung
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Because his own mother is too young to take care of him, Umande, a newborn gorilla, is fed and cuddled by human zookeepers until a surrogate mother is found.

Communication Arts

- 📖 Compare and contrast the book "A Mom for Umande" by Maria Faulconer to "Ivan, the Shopping Mall Gorilla" by Katherine Applegate.
- 📖 Alphabetize a list of types of Primates.
- 📖 Make a time line of Umande's life from birth to present.

Mathematics

- 📖 Compare and contrast the height and weight of an average male gorilla to the average height and weight of an average man.
- 📖 Find the weights of 5 zoo animals. Compare their weights using =, <, and >.
- 📖 Using the above information, order the weights from least to greatest or greatest to least.

Science

- 📖 Umande is a mammal. Ask students to list the attributes that make an animal a mammal. Make a list of 10 other animals found in a zoo that is a mammal.
- 📖 Make a sensory box. Place items in the box that Umande played with or used in the story plus other items that were not in the story. Have students find items from the story by feel and have them explain the connection of the item to the story.
- 📖 Research the amount and types of foods a gorilla eats daily. Compare that information to the types and amounts of foods a 2nd grade student eats if they purchase school lunch.

Social Studies

- 📖 Compare the native environment gorillas live in in the wild to the KC or St. Louis Zoo. What changes would have to be made to accommodate a gorilla to keep them healthy and comfortable?
- 📖 Umande's name means "swirling mists" in Swahili. Watch the Youtube video (listed below) to practice saying words in Swahili.
- 📖 On a United States map, locate the two zoos Umande has lived in. Mark those cities with a piece of yarn. Using the map key figure the distance between the two zoos.

Fine Arts

- 📖 Using paper plates, colored paper, popsicle sticks and art supplies, create a mask of the face of your favorite zoo animal.
- 📖 Listen to two lullabies. Ask the students to do a creative free draw to show the feelings they have while listening to the music.

Suggested works to complement this book:

- 📖 Applegate, Katherine. 2014. *Ivan the remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla*.
- 📖 Hatkoff, Juliana. 2008. *Looking for Miza: The True Story of the Mountain Gorilla Family who rescued one of their own*.
- 📖 Richmond, Marianne. 2008. *I Wished for You: an Adoption Story*.
- 📖 Gilman, Jan Levinson. 2009. *Murphy's Three Homes: a Story for Children in Foster Care*.
- 📖 Kasza, Keiko. 1996. *A Mother for Choco*.
- 📖 Robinson, Hilary. 2016. *Help a Hamster*.

Websites:

<http://www.mariafaulconer.com/index.htm>
<http://www.susanhartung.com/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK0wPpLryc4>
<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/gorilla.html>
<http://www.kansascityzoo.org/attractions/map>
<http://www.stlzoo.org/animals/>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/07/chimp-surrogate-mom-keeva_n_7230012.html
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXcGORjWte8>
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Animals/animalmasks/animalmask.html
<http://www.awf.org/wildlife-conservation/mountain-gorilla>
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