



The Wild World Handbook: Habitats by Andrea Debbink

- ISBN 9781683692461
- Trade Paperback
- \$19.99 USA / \$24.99 Can
- On-sale April 20, 2021
- 176 Pages
- Age Range: 8-12 Years
- Quirk Books

About the book...

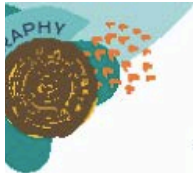
- Climate change will be a defining issue facing Generations Z and Alpha--but research shows that awe is a more powerful motivator for action than fear. With that idea in mind, this handbook is a hope-filled, awe-provoking middle-grade guide to environmental stewardship and the diverse habitats we call home.
- By inspiring readers with real stories and wonders from the natural world, this book aims to empower the next generation of conservationists and outdoor explorers. In its pages, readers will find inspiration, actionable advice, and diverse tales of adventure and hope about people who had incredible encounters with nature and then did something about it. Readers are encouraged to discover that no matter where they live or how they choose to engage with nature, they have the significant ability to act on its behalf.
- Featuring stories of environmental stewardship, creative activities to engage with the natural world, and real stories of inspiring outdoor adventurers, scientists, and artists, this book will explore the world's varied habitats and how to preserve, appreciate, and celebrate them.

THE WILD WORLD HANDBOOK: HABITATS

Selected images




LAPHY



THE TRAILS ADVOCATE

BOB COOMBER



“The draw to me is to be out in nature, and whether you go 20 miles or a hundred yards, you can have the same experience. And that’s why I keep pushing to get to the kind of places that I go.”

—Bob Coomber

30



PLAN AN EXPEDITION

Even if you don't live near the great Himalayas, you might still have mountains near you. Look at a map and find the mountain range that's nearest to where you live. Once you've found it, answer these questions:

- WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE?
- WHERE DOES THE NAME COME FROM? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
- HOW MANY MILES LONG IS THE MOUNTAIN RANGE?
- WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE TALLEST MOUNTAIN?
- WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF THE RIVERS THAT BEGIN IN THESE MOUNTAINS? CAN YOU TRACE THE RIVERS TO SEE WHERE THEY BEGIN AND END?
- IS THIS MOUNTAIN RANGE CLOSE ENOUGH FOR YOU TO VISIT SOMEDAY?

22

Hike Like a Mountaineer

Mountains or no mountains, you can still think (and hike!) like a mountaineer when you're outside. Here's how:

- 1. Choose your adventure.** Ask an adult to hike with you. Look at a map together to find a trail or path near your home. (It's fine if it's in the city!) Mountaineers always spend time planning their trip before setting out. That includes looking at maps and estimating how long the trek will take.
- 2. Take a pack.** Backpackers use special extra-large packs that are made for hiking long distances. Smaller packs called daypacks can be used for short hikes. A school backpack or sports bag with shoulder straps will also work. For a short hike, it's a good idea to carry these items in your pack: water, a snack, sunscreen, and bug spray.
- 3. Record what you see.** Bring a camera to take photos of plants and wildlife, or carry a small notebook to make lists of the animals and their habitats.



23



MYSTERY IN THE MOUNTAINS

The stories were unsettling. For years, people told tales about a half-man/half-animal that lived in the mountains of Africa, hidden from sight in the shadowy jungles. But there was more than just stories. There were bones and skulls, bigger than any human's, with strong jaws and sharp teeth. In the 1840s, the American naturalist Jeffries Wyman and the physician Thomas Sarge studied the bones of one of these mysterious creatures and realized that instead of a monster, they were looking at something familiar: an ape. But an ape that no scientist had ever seen. They gave the creature its first scientific name: Gorilla.

For the next hundred years, gorillas continued to have a fearsome reputation. It was more myth than fact. European and American travelers who went to Africa came back with sensational stories that described gorillas as dangerous, unpredictable beasts. But eventually, as more people studied gorillas, they realized that these stories were not true. Researchers discovered that although gorillas are incredibly large, strong, and able to cause harm, most of the time they're quiet and gentle. They live in close family groups and build nests to sleep in each night. They're curious and very smart. They play. And despite having teeth that look like giant fangs, gorillas are vegetarians.

Today, there are two species and five subspecies of gorillas on the African continent. Sadly, all of them are endangered. Many have been killed by poachers, disease, and wars in the countries where they live. Many others have died

24

because their forest homes are being destroyed to harvest products like palm oil, an ingredient that's used all over the world in such common products as ice cream and shampoo. Like most animals, gorillas can't live just anywhere. They need forests and space and peace.

But in spite of these sad truths, the story of gorillas offers hope. Over the past few decades, many people have worked hard to protect gorillas and the places they live. Because of this intense conservation effort and cooperation between governments, one gorilla species is finally beginning to show small signs of recovery: mountain gorillas.



25