

The Sport Scientist: the Jane Goodall Analogy

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Jane Goodall – Early Interest, Genuine Desire



Jane Goodall, grew up
determined to share a forest
home with African animals.

She did not set out to become a
famous naturalist.

She ended up changing forever
our understanding of
chimpanzees.

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Jane Goodall Good Education, Encouraged by Experienced Mentor



Jane won a job assisting Leakey with his studies, doing everything from documenting monkey behavior to hunting for fossils.

Leakey eventually encouraged Goodall to study chimpanzees, animals that he believed could provide us a window into our own beginnings.

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Jane Goodall – Altruistic Behavior, Not Money Centered



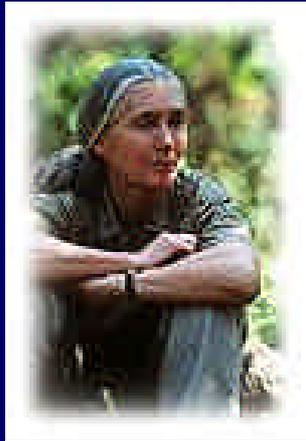
“Chimpanzees suffer in captivity, as they are exploited in entertainment, dressed up as pets, dragged around as photographers’ props and imprisoned. The least I can do is speak out for the Chimpanzees. They can not speak for themselves.”

-- Dr. Jane Goodall

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Jane Goodall Polite Persistence



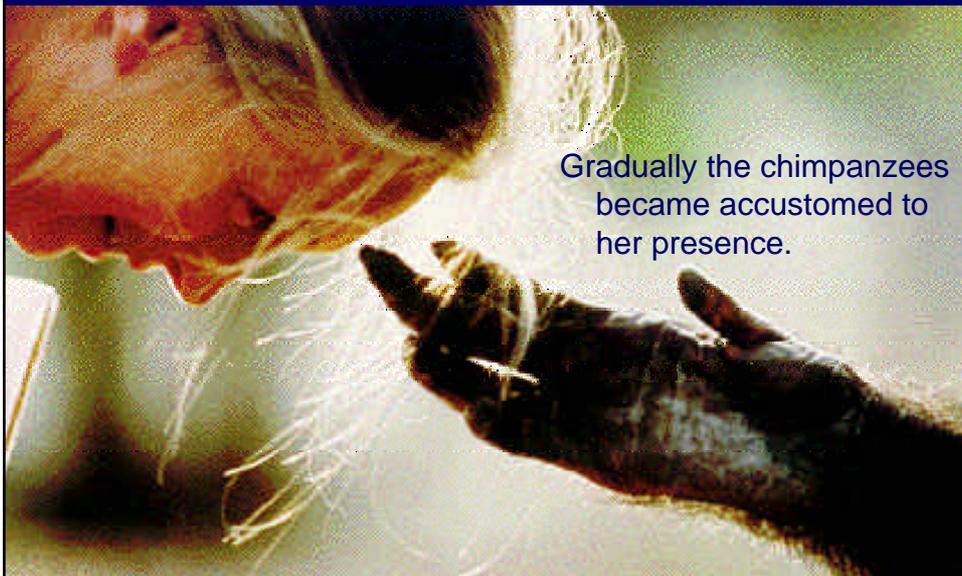
In the beginning, studying the chimpanzees of Gombe was not easy for Jane. The chimpanzees fled from her in fear, and it took many months for her to get close to them.

On many days Jane observed the chimpanzees through binoculars from a peak overlooking the forest.

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Jane Goodall – Accepted By Chimpanzees



Gradually the chimpanzees became accustomed to her presence.

Jane Goodall Novel Techniques, Methods Not Always Accepted



Within a few years Jane became intimately familiar with the Chimps' lives and she spent her days trailing them through the forest and recording their habits.



Some of Jane's techniques were unorthodox and controversial: for instance, rather than assigning her chimps numbers, she gave them names like "Fifi" and "Passion."

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Jane Goodall Motivated, Innovative, Made Mistakes



Jane set up at Gombe a banana-laden feeding station designed to lure the apes out into the open, where they could be more easily observed.

Jane now regrets this practice, which altered the chimps' natural behavior.

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Jane Goodall Unique Observations, New Insights



Soon after becoming accepted by a local troop, Goodall realized that what she was observing challenged virtually every conventional notion about chimpanzees.



Jane's work shattered two long-standing myths: the idea that only humans could make and use tools, and the belief that chimps were passive vegetarians.

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Jane Goodall Field Data Recognized as Valuable



Goodall lived at Gombe almost full-time until 1975, accumulating a wealth of long-term data still valued by today's researchers.



Scientists agree that Goodall's practice of following individual chimps for decades has yielded an unprecedented wealth of information for current researchers.

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Jane Goodall Making a Big Difference



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What is Sport Science?



Using the scientific process to guide the practice of sport with the ultimate aim of improving performance.

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Jane Goodall and the Sport Scientist

- Early genuine interest
- Formal academic training
- Established mentor
- Opportunity to work in the field
- Patient persistence (not productive early on)
- Accepted into the group
- Careful observations
- Made mistakes (altruistic behavior)
- Research not accepted by academics at first
- Influenced, but not limited by basic science
- Eventually knowledge makes positive impact

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