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Pre-Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

The life of Jane Goodall

On the morning of July 14, 1960, Jane Goodall arrived on the east shore of Lake Tanganyika and the Gombe National Park. She had brought a tent, a cup without a handle, a pair of binoculars and her mother. A group of local men met the strange pair of women and helped carry their camping gear. Then, around 5 p.m., somebody reported that they had seen a chimpanzee. Straight away, Jane set off into the forest to ﬁnd her ﬁrst chimpanzee.

As a young woman, Jane Goodall had no scientiﬁc qualiﬁcations but this didn’t stop her from following her childhood dream of studying chimpanzees in Africa. She had set out to study the animals and ﬁnd out how they really lived. After many months of difﬁcult work she made three important discoveries: chimpanzees ate meat, they used tools to get food and they also made tools.

Every evening, Jane wrote her ﬁndings in a diary and she began to publish articles in journals such as *National Geographic* magazine. After a while, scientists and academics started reading her studies and Jane was offered a place at a university. After more years of research she became Doctor Jane Goodall in 1966. Her work was also making her famous. There was a film documentary *Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees* (1963) and then the ﬁrst of many books called *My Friends the Wild Chimpanzees* (1969).

During the seventies, Gombe became a dangerous place to work. It is on the border of four different countries and there was ﬁghting between soldiers and rebels. Many foreigners ﬂed the region but Jane stayed. In the end, she needed a military escort in order to continue her work. In one of her diaries from this period she notices that chimpanzees can also be violent: ‘I thought the chimps were nicer than we are. But time has revealed that they are not. They can be just as awful.’

A different problem developed in Gombe in the 1980s. The human population in the region was increasing which caused deforestation. As a result of this there were only about a hundred chimpanzees living in Gombe by the end of the decade. Jane realised that something had to be done so chimpanzees and humans could live together so she set about helping the local community to grow more trees in the region.

After 1989, Jane left her career in Gombe in order to do other work. Firstly, she started travelling and giving lectures. She protested about the cruelty to chimpanzees used in medical research laboratories. She also set up sanctuaries for chimps which had been captured or were orphans because of the trade in chimpanzee meat. Nowadays, she spends about 300 days a year giving interviews, talks and lectures, meeting with government ofﬁcials and raising money for the Jane Goodall Institute which continues her research. She has very little spare time left but she still spends part of every year in the forest in Gombe, watching her chimpanzees.

rebel (n) /ˈrebl/ soldier who ﬁghts against government soldiers

ﬂed(to ﬂee) (v) /fled/ left quickly because of a dangerous situation

deforestation (n) /ˌdiːˌfɒrɪˈsteɪʃn/ when trees and forests disappear

sanctuary (n) /ˈsaeŋktʃuəri/ a safe place

trade (n) /treɪd/ buying and selling

Life