Biography Writing

Grade 3

Name _____ Date _____

Remember: A **biography** is the true story of a real person's life, written by someone else. It tells events in time order: early life, what the person did, and why they are remembered.

Time-order words: *When she was young ... In 1960 ... Later ... Today ...*

Fact File: Jane Goodall



• Jane Goodall was born in London, England, on April 3, 1934.

• As a little girl, she loved animals. Her favourite toy was a stuffed chimpanzee named Jubilee. She dreamed of going to Africa.

• In 1960, when she was 26, Jane went to Gombe in Tanzania, Africa, to watch wild chimpanzees.

• She sat quietly for months until the chimps trusted her. She gave them names, such as David Greybeard.

• Jane saw a chimp poke a grass stem into a termite mound to pull out termites. Chimps make and use tools! Before this, people thought only humans did.

• In 1977, she started the Jane Goodall Institute to protect chimpanzees and forests.

• In 1991, she started Roots & Shoots, a club where young people help animals, people and the planet.

• Jane travelled the world giving talks until she died in 2025, at age 91.

Facts from the Jane Goodall Institute and National Geographic.

1. Check the facts

Circle the best answer.

1. What did Jane Goodall discover?

(a) Chimps can talk
(b) Chimps make and use tools
(c) Chimps live in London

2. Which event happened first?

(a) She went to Gombe
(b) She started Roots & Shoots
(c) She played with a toy chimp named Jubilee

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2. Plan your biography

Use the fact file to fill in the timeline. Write notes, not full sentences.

Who is this biography about?

Early life

Big moment

Important work

Later life

Why is she remembered?

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3. Write the biography

Turn your notes into a biography. Use time-order words.

Write a biography of Jane Goodall in two short paragraphs. Begin with who she was, tell the events in order, and end with why she is remembered.

Check: ☐ Who it is about ☐ Events in time order ☐ Time-order words ☐ Why she is remembered ☐ Capitals and periods

Answer Key

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1. Check the facts

1. What did Jane Goodall discover?

- a. Chimps can talk
- **b. Chimps make and use tools**
- c. Chimps live in London

2. Which event happened first?

- a. She went to Gombe
- b. She started Roots & Shoots
- **c. She played with a toy chimp named Jubilee**

2. Plan your biography

Sample notes. Answers will vary.

Who is this biography about?

Jane Goodall, a scientist who studied chimpanzees.

Early life

Born in London in 1934. Loved animals. Toy chimp Jubilee. Dreamed of Africa.

Big moment

1960: went to Gombe, Tanzania. Watched wild chimps for months.

Important work

Saw chimps make tools. Started the Jane Goodall Institute in 1977.

Later life

Roots & Shoots in 1991. Gave talks around the world. Died in 2025, age 91.

Why is she remembered?

She showed people that chimps are clever and helped protect animals and forests.

Model Answer

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3. Write the biography

A model answer to share with students. Their writing will be different.

Jane Goodall was a scientist who spent her life studying chimpanzees. She was born in London, England, in 1934. When she was young, she loved animals and had a toy chimpanzee named Jubilee. She dreamed of going to Africa one day.

In 1960, Jane went to Gombe in Tanzania to watch wild chimps. She sat quietly for months until they trusted her. Then she saw a chimp use a grass stem to catch termites, which showed that chimps make tools. Later, she started the Jane Goodall Institute and the Roots & Shoots club for young people. Jane died in 2025, but she is remembered for helping the world understand and protect chimpanzees.