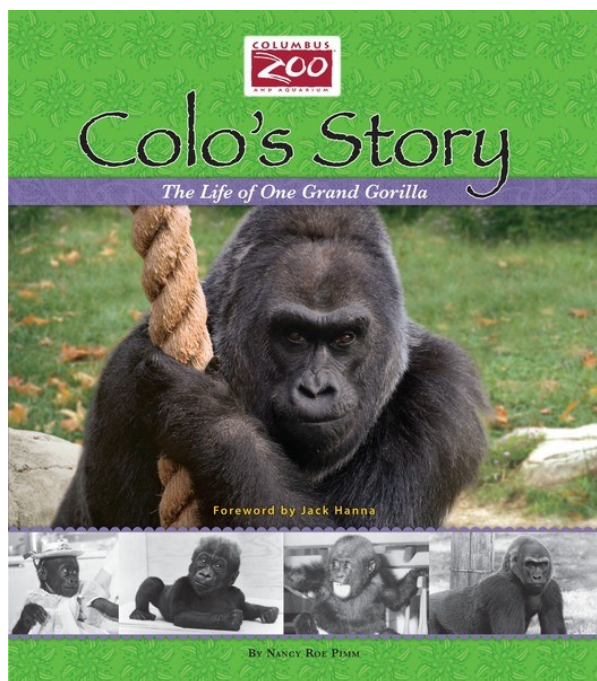


Colo's Story: The Life of One Grand Gorilla

by Nancy Roe Pimm
A Choose to Read Ohio Toolkit



About the Book

When Colo was born unexpectedly on the cold concrete floor of the zoo on December 22, 1956, the book *How to Raise a Baby Gorilla* didn't exist. "How do you raise a baby gorilla?" the keepers at the Columbus Zoo wondered. They raised Colo the only way they knew how—as if she were a human baby. She wore diapers, drank from bottles, and had an entire wardrobe of baby clothes. Follow Colo's amazing journey from a cuddly baby to a feisty toddler, from a mother of three to the matriarch of a very large gorilla family, and from being the first gorilla born in captivity to the oldest living gorilla in the world. Colo has done more than live her own amazing life; she has helped teach generations of

zookeepers and veterinarians what's best for all gorillas in captivity. Readers will see many photos of Colo throughout her life.

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Book Details

Colo's Story: The Life of One Grand Gorilla written by Nancy Roe Pimm
Lerner Publishing Group, 2011. ISBN-978-0-9841554-5-3. Ages 9-14. NC1080 Lexile
<https://www.lernerbooks.com/Pages/Home.aspx>

About the Author

Born and raised in Brooklyn, Nancy Roe Pimm spent a lot of time reading books and fantasizing about living on a horse farm in Montana. She married a rodeo cowboy who soon became a professional race car driver. After working in the pits for ten years on the Indy and NASCAR circuits, Nancy wrote children's books on the Indy 500 and the Daytona 500. Due to her love of animals and her affiliation with the Columbus Zoo, she has written two nonfiction books about gorillas, ***The Heart of the Beast: Eight Great Gorilla Stories*** and ***Colo's Story: The Life of One Grand Gorilla***.



Photograph and biographical information courtesy of Lerner Publishing Group; used with permission.

Author Resources:

Nancy Roe Pimm's official website

<http://www.nancyroepimm.com/>

Author page on Lerner Publishing Group's website

<https://www.lernerbooks.com/Pages/Author-Illustrator-Details.aspx?contactid=1272>

Five Questions for Nancy Roe Pimm

<https://www.lernerbooks.com/Pages/Author-Illustrator-Details.aspx?contactid=1272>

Profile article about Nancy Roe Pimm from Columbus City Scene Magazine

http://cityscene.espacecommunications.com/dublin_author_takes_the_long_road_toward_achieving_dream.html

For publicity and speaking engagement inquiries:

Check the School Visits section of Nancy Roe Pimm's website:

<http://www.nancyroepimm.com/>

Talk About It!

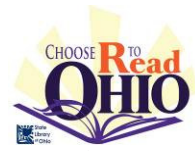
Topics to share when discussing **Colo's Story** with young readers.

- Chapter Eight of **Colo's Story** discusses gorilla conservation in the wild. Talk about the importance of gorilla conservation as well as the protection of all wildlife, especially animals on the verge of extinction. What is extinction? What can humans do to help eliminate the threat of extinction?
- Why was Colo's birth so exciting and highly publicized? Talk about the impact of Colo's birth on the Columbus Zoo, captive gorillas, the media, etc.
- Making a difference. What are some basic steps people of all ages can do to help support gorillas and other wildlife? Discuss easy ways children can make a difference every day.

Learn and have fun!

Here are some ideas for extending the experience of reading **Colo's Story**.

- **Colo's Story** takes you through the life of Colo, her children, and her grandchildren. Have children research their family tree or family album and put together a poster that might include pictures of their families, accompanied by a brief description of each family member.
- There are several zoos in Ohio, including the world-famous Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. Take the children on a field trip to tour one of Ohio's zoos and learn all about the different animals.
<http://consumer.discoverohio.com/campaigns/zoos.aspx>
- There are several organizations that work to protect gorillas and other wildlife. Have children research a reputable conservation organization and write a brief report on the organization's objectives, efforts, etc.
- Consult the online resources provided by the Smithsonian National Zoological Park. Kids can create habitats, refer to fact sheets, and find articles: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Education/OnlineResources/>



<http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>

Additional Activities and Ohio's New Learning Standards

Educators: Every *Choose to Read Ohio* book for children may be used to support Common Core Reading Standards. Here are examples of activities using **Colo's Story** that align with additional content standards. These are examples. Other content standards may also apply.

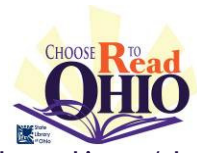
Librarians, parents, and others: These activities may also be used in library programs, family activities, and other projects. Academic Content Standards define what students should know and be able to do at each grade. They are included for teachers who want to use this book in school. For more information, see the Ohio Department of Education website, <http://education.ohio.gov>. Click on "Academic Content Standards" in the Educators section.

Science

- *Earth and Space Science – Earth's Resources.* In continuation of the making a difference discussion, teach children about earth's resources. Evaluate and compare different methods of conservation, and discuss why certain resources are limited, with emphasis on reducing the use and/or waste of resources. (Grade 3).
- *Life Science – Interconnections within Ecosystems.* Animals get their energy by eating plants and other animals that eat plants. Research the ecosystem of a gorilla's environment. What do they eat to survive? What do the plants that gorillas eat need to survive? Have children create a web demonstrating the ecosystem and its needs. (Grade 5).
- *Earth and Space Science – Rocks, Minerals and Soil.* Explore different rocks and their properties. Include varieties of granite, rhyolite, basalt, obsidian, pumice and andesite. After identifying rocks and their properties, discuss the geographic location these rocks can be found. Relate this discussion to the gorilla's habitat. (Grade 6).
- *Life Science – Cycles of Matter and Flow of Energy.* Teach and discuss biomes with the students. Biomes consist of topography, soil type, precipitation, solar radiation, and temperature. Have students select a particular region and research its biomes. (Grade 7). Learn more here: http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/teacher_resources/webfieldtrips/major_biomes/
- *Life Science – Species and Reproduction.* Discuss reproduction as a necessary element for continuation of a species. What is sexual versus asexual reproduction? Have students research cloning in the food industry. Students should select one practice and determine whether or not it is environmentally healthy. Students should justify opinion with scientific evidence. (Grade 8).

Social Studies

- *Geography – Spatial Thinking: World studies from 750 B.C. to 1600 A.D.* Have students develop a map of trade routes connecting Africa, Europe and Asia. Discuss how trade routes fostered the spread of technology and major world religions. (Grade 7).



<http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>

Explore More!

Additional ideas and resources to use with **Colo's Story**.

Check it Out!

Explore ***Gorillas in our Midst: The Story of the Columbus Zoo Gorillas*** by Jeff Lyttle. Read this informative book about Columbus Zoo gorillas to discover even more about Colo and her relatives! Retrieve a copy from your local library:

<http://www.oplin.org/fal>.

Colo's Life

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H_L4I7FLd6I

Watch this video created by the Columbus Zoo to learn more about Colo and her offspring.

An Effort to Save Gorillas

Discuss Dian Fossey as a strong female voice for gorilla protection. Learn more about Dian Fossey's effort and ongoing legacy by reading the juvenile biography, ***Dian Fossey and the Mountain Gorillas*** by Jane A. Schott

SWACO

Organize a field trip to a Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio landfill (<http://swaco.org/SmartKids/Tour.aspx>). Students will take a tour of the facility and learn more about the importance of conservation and recycling.

About Choose to Read Ohio

Choose to Read Ohio, a project of the State Library of Ohio and the Ohioana Library Association, encourages public libraries, schools, families, and others to build a community of readers and an appreciation of Ohio authors and literature. CTRO is adaptable for use in classrooms, libraries, bookstores, by book discussion groups, families, and other community groups.

Explore Choose to Read Ohio resources & toolkits: <http://library.ohio.gov/ctro>.

This toolkit created February 2012, revised March 2013.