Gorilla population challenge

Introduction

In this first session about percentages the learners will be given possible scenarios to work with. This gives them the opportunity to see the impact on the gorilla population, depending on how the main threats vary. This will allow them to become familiar with calculating percentages of quantities, before moving on to setting their own criteria by changing the variables.

Possible prior experiences

Discuss the situation of Lowland Gorillas in Gabon and surrounding countries.

Make the learners aware of the different species of gorillas which exist and how they are all endangered and facing the same major threats of loss of habitat, hunting and disease.

Research project about lowland gorillas before implementing the percentage problem solving challenges. It may be important to highlight the three major threats which gorillas face:

- Loss of habitat due to logging
- Disease: the Ebola virus
- Hunting: bush meat trade

Support notes

The gorilla population challenge can be used as an individual task or pair work.

This task is designed to be completed with the use of calculators. The tables can be cut out separately and given one at a time. This will allow learners who need more challenge to complete more of the tables.

The answer grid also gives calculation instructions. A blank version of the answer grid which includes the calculation instructions which can be used by learners who need additional support through the process.

Explain to the learners that working out percentages, where there is an annual increase or decrease, is very useful for real life. Discuss the example of interest on an amount saved in a bank account.

The calculations involve large numbers, to reflect the reality of the statistics involved. However, they have been carefully chosen to try and avoid complications with decimals. This should be pointed out to the learners so that they are aware of this for session two, when they are creating their own questions for peers.

Once the learners have completed the task, ask them to explain the process they followed to calculate an increase or decrease of percentage over several years.

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/passeportfrancophone

Education Scotland
Foghlam Alba