



# BABOON WORD SEARCH



Let's learn more about Chacma Baboons!  
Read the text below and then try to solve the  
puzzle on the following page.

Chacma baboons can inhabit a wide range of habitats including, afro montane forest, woodlands, sub deserts, savanna and cape fynbos, as long as they have access to sufficient food and water sources. The landscape must also include secure sleep sites such as trees and cliffs.

Baboons are opportunistic omnivores, their diet consists of grass, seeds, berries, mushrooms, fruits, leaves, nuts, eggs, roots, small insects, bark, grubs, birds, reptiles, and even occasionally rodents and small antelope. Coastal baboons will also forage for seafood such as mussels and limpets.

Baboons are important seed dispersers and contribute to plant biodiversity in their home ranges.

Baboons live in social groups called troops, which are governed via a strict dominance hierarchy. High ranking individuals have preferential access to resources, such as food, sleep sites and mating opportunities.

When baboons are foraging or resting, large males will often take up sentry duty where they will watch from prominent positions and vocalise to warn the troop of approaching danger.

The most dominant male baboon in the troop is called the alpha male. A male's position in the hierarchy is won and maintained by fighting and visual displays of aggression. Males have large dog-like muzzles and sharp canine teeth which they will often display in a yawn. Other visual signs of aggression include swaggering, staring and moving individuals of lower rank from a preferred place using confident body language. This is called supplanting.

Male baboons will generally leave their troop at 8-9 years of age to find a new troop. When a male leaves his troop this is known as dispersal.

Female baboons tend to stay in the troop in which they were born and form strong hierarchies. Female rank is passed down through the generations from mothers to daughters.

Female baboons are pregnant for six months and lactation usually lasts for around twelve months whereafter the baby will be weaned off their mother's milk. However, when food resources are scarce weaning may take longer.

Infant and juvenile baboons account for more than half of the individuals in a troop.

Grooming is an important social activity that helps to form and strengthen bonds and alliances among troop members. It also serves to affirm rank position within the troop hierarchy.

Baboons have thickened pads of skin on their rumps. These are known as ischial callosities, these skin pads are adaptations that enable baboons to sit comfortably and with increased stability. This is particularly important when they are roosting high in the trees at night.



# BABOON WORD SEARCH

Search up, down, backwards and diagonally to find the hidden words.  
Good luck finding all thirty eight of them!

G R A S S Q R T N A F N I R E P T I L E S P Q  
P S D R O J L A C T A T I O N L C Y K R A B J  
I T L O H P R H R I L W G W W A Z T S T O O R  
E U A A M S P A S O Z E D U A I E I G S Y O Q  
L N E H N I J O N U M T A F Y C Q S C E H T Q  
I T L P V D N G R K P N T V O O I R D I C A W  
N A W L Z O S A R T U P I F E S D E C R R T E  
E I L A V F C C N O U J L V V S T V A R A I A  
V L N L A G O A A T D N M A O U G I L E R B N  
U D V S I I R R L P Z E I U N R T D L B E A I  
J Y Y T E A R O A I E V N S Z T E O O T I H N  
Q R N I L C N Z O G S D T T T Z J I S R H F G  
U T P X W G T C S M E E I S S I L B I O Y K W  
C N K S D E E S E L A Q U P S L C E T O Z W L  
G E J D I S P E R S A L R C P C S Z Y P K J Y  
M S E D S W A G G E R Y F R E S O U R C E S O

ALLIANCE  
ALPHA  
BARK  
BERRIES  
BIODIVERSITY  
CALLOSITY  
DISPERSAL  
DOMINANT

FORAGE  
FRUIT  
GRASS  
GROOM  
HABITAT  
HIERARCHY  
INFANT  
INSECTS

JUVENILE  
LACTATION  
LANDSCAPE  
LEAVES  
MUZZLE  
NUTS  
OMNIVORE  
OPPORTUNISTIC

RANK  
REPTILES  
RESOURCES  
RODENTS  
ROOTS  
SEEDS  
SENTRY  
SOCIAL

SUPLANT  
SWAGGER  
TROOP  
VOCALISE  
WEANING  
YAWN