

# SCHOLASTIC News®



## Orangutan School

This fuzzy baby is an **orangutan** (uh-RANG-uh-tan). That is a type of ape. Some baby orangutans go to school. What do they learn?

My name \_\_\_\_\_





# School for Apes

## As You Read

Think about how the school helps baby orangutans.

**At this school, baby orangutans learn how to be wild.**

Wild orangutans have busy lives climbing trees and swinging between branches looking for fruit to eat. At night, they build a nest in the treetops.

Usually, orangutans learn how to do all this from their moms, but some have a big problem.

## Endangered Apes

Orangutans are **endangered**. Few are left in the world, and they are in danger of dying out forever. How did this happen?

People cut down many of the forests where orangutans lived, and it got hard for the apes to find food. So they took food from farms. Then farmers killed those adult orangutans. Now many

baby orangutans do not have moms to teach them what they need to know.

## Going to School

People are helping. They have started orangutan schools! The schools take care of baby orangutans until they can take care of themselves.

The youngest babies go to the **nursery**, where people feed and take care of them. The people wear masks to protect the orangutans from sickness.



Workers wear masks to keep the orangutans from getting sick.



The babies get baths.

When the orangutans turn 2 years old, they go to Baby School, where they spend a little time in the forest. They learn how to climb trees, find food, and make nests.

When they turn 4, they go to Forest School where they stay in the forest overnight. Now they are more **independent** and can do more on their own, without help from people.

## Graduation!

After a few years, the orangutans have learned everything they need to know. The people from the school take the orangutans into a forest and let them go. The people know that the forest is safe and that the orangutans will be able to find food there.

The orangutans will live and grow in the forest. Maybe one day they will have babies and can teach them everything they learned at orangutan school!

—by Blair Rainsford



Older orangutans learn how to climb.

## Orangu-Facts

Learn more about wild orangutans.



Babies stay with their moms until they are about 4 years old.



Adult males grow wide cheek pads called **flanges** (FLAN-jez).



Orangutans use tools, just like people do. They use leaves as an umbrella!