

The human-chimp bond captured in an iconic photo



(Image credit: Hugo van Lawick)

By Anna Turns

On 14 July 1960, 26-year-old Jane Goodall arrived by boat to the shores of Lake Tanganyika, Tanzania. Here, in what is now Gombe Stream National Park, her groundbreaking scientific research into chimpanzee behaviour began.

Previously a secretarial student without an undergraduate degree in science, Goodall says she observed her wild subjects with an open mind and without preconceptions. Controversially at the time, she defied convention by giving these chimps names instead of numbers.

One image taken of Goodall during this time captured her fresh approach, ----- the scientific norm and has become one of the world's most recognisable photos.

Her late husband, Dutch photographer Hugo van Lawick, went to Gombe in 1962 where he took thousands of photographs of Goodall. But it was in 1964 that he took what became an iconic photograph of Goodall with an infant chimp known as Flint. In the photo, Goodall is shown crouching down and reaching out with her right arm to Flint, the first chimp to be born at Gombe after Goodall's arrival, as he extends his left arm up towards her.

As Goodall tells BBC Future, this was long before the era of digital photography, so she had to wait a while before she could see the printed images. "It was couple of months or more before there was a safe way to send exposed rolls to the [National] Geographic for processing, and then another wait while they sent the prints back to Kigoma," she recalls. "When I saw it, though I did not realise it would become iconic, it did make me think of Michelangelo's painting of God reaching out to Man."

The photo, taken in 1964, was first published in [National Geographic magazine in December 1965](#). Another photo of Goodall studying the Gombe chimpanzees was on the front cover and published as part of van Lawick's photo series titled "New Discoveries Among Africa's Chimpanzees". That same year, National Geographic released Miss Goodall and the Wild Chimpanzees, the first of many documentaries showcasing Goodall's research.

The photo, along with van Lawick's documentary film *People of the Forest: The Chimps of Gombe*, "forced science to abandon the idea that humans were the only sentient beings with personalities, minds and emotions" says Goodall, adding that she was taught this as a student at Cambridge University in 1962. "Thus [this image] opened up a whole new way of understanding who animals are and showed that we humans are a part of and not separated from the rest of the animal kingdom."

Goodall was the first person to notice that chimpanzees were stripping down stiff blades of grass, then sticking them into holes in termite mounds to catch and eat these insects. Until then, tool use like this was believed to distinguish humans from all other animals.

Mark Wright, director of science at conservation charity WWF, says Goodall was "a real trailblazer" in many ways. But this photograph helped people recognise the importance of a female perspective within the scientific research community, he says. "She was a young woman saying that women are equally well-placed to do really first class research in the field. "Up until then, it had been a pretty male-dominated environment. There then was a succession of high profile women doing this sort of work. (...)

When the photo was taken in 1964, Goodall was immersed in life at Gombe, beginning to understand the chimps she was studying and slowly building up her observations of their behaviour. This first-hand experience has always been her priority, says Wright.

"This photo reminded us that for much of this work, there's no alternative to being in the field. A lot of studies were in zoos or safari parks – you need to get in the field to really understand the natural behaviour. And you have to do that for the long-term, you can't just nip in for a couple of weeks. She reinforced that."

Goodall went to East Africa without any formal qualifications and lived in Gombe for more than two decades, dedicating her life to studying chimps for generations. Wright says this photo relays a powerful message to people who haven't studied science but still want to get involved in research because sometimes, an open mind is the best starting point: "This wasn't someone in a lab coat, she made it relatable. And because she wasn't encumbered by lots of formal training, she could go in as a free thinker and then interpret [what she saw]."

Keen to open the world of scientific research up to everyone, Goodall has inspired many people to study primatology in the field. Since 1960, more than 482 scientific research papers and graduate theses about chimpanzee health and behaviour have been published by Gombe Stream Research Center, with hundreds of scientists studying there.

Alongside her vast body of documentary films, books and National Geographic articles, Goodall's photographs with Flint flagged the importance of conserving individual animals. "Previously it was all about saving species – individuals were not important. The scientific thinking changed," says Goodall. (...)

The closeness between Goodall and Flint in the photograph also reflects the culture at the time, says Wright, noting that scientists now keep further from the animal subjects they are observing. "But she was doing something that hadn't really been done before...I take my hat off to her. Her work was absolutely ground-breaking."

Above all, the picture shows Goodall's genuine love for her subject, Wright says. "There is a warmth and an affection for the species she's studying. There's also a love for Gombe, too – she found her place."

For Goodall, it's her simple connection to Flint that makes this image so captivating. "I suspect it was the appeal of that little infant reaching out so trustingly – a real bond between human and chimpanzee. At least, that is why it is so powerful for me!"

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230623-how-jane-goodall-chimp-iconic-photo-changed-our-view-of-nature>

01) Conforme as informações do texto, as atitudes de Jane Goodall foram controversas em sua época porque

- (a) chegou à Tanzânia de barco e sozinha.
- (b) não parecia ter muitos diplomas de especialização.
- (c) não tinha preconceitos sobre a vida em geral.
- (d) era jovem e tinha uma mente selvagem.
- (e) deu nomes aos chimpanzés que estudava.

02) Há uma linha pontilhada no terceiro parágrafo do texto. Que palavra a completa?

- (a) challenged
- (b) travelled
- (c) protected
- (d) recognised
- (e) researched

03) Após a leitura do artigo, o que NÃO é afirmado sobre a célebre foto?

- (a) Foi tirada por um fotógrafo holandês, casado com a pesquisadora.
- (b) A imagem lembra uma célebre pintura de Michelangelo.
- (c) Foi publicada na capa de uma revista no ano seguinte.
- (d) Foi revelada mais de dois meses depois de ter sido tirada.
- (e) A imagem tornou-se uma das mais reconhecidas do mundo.

04) De acordo com as informações lidas, o que a divulgação da foto implicou para a ciência?

- (a) O abandono da ideia da origem divina da nossa espécie.
- (b) A compreensão de que não só os humanos têm emoções, mente e personalidade.
- (c) O entendimento de que a humanidade não poderá mais viver separada dos animais.
- (d) A certeza de que as universidades precisam atualizar seus conceitos feministas.
- (e) A confirmação de que os estudiosos de Zoologia nunca revisaram suas ideias.

05) As observações de Jane Goodall, segundo o artigo, nos permitiram descobrir que

- (a) não apenas os humanos sabem usar ferramentas.
- (b) os animais mamíferos são superiores a nós na expressão de sentimentos.
- (c) não existe diferença entre filhotes e adultos primatas.
- (d) o uso de certos utensílios apareceu primeiro entre os primatas.
- (e) não há diferenças entre a pesquisa de homens e mulheres.

06) Abaixo há afirmações verdadeiras (V) e falsas (F) sobre o tema em pauta. Segundo o que foi lido, qual alternativa apresenta a ordem correta?

- I- A pesquisadora foi alvo de diversos documentários na televisão.
- II- Algumas ideias até então consolidadas passaram a ser criticadas.
- III- A perspectiva feminina não teve impacto na comunidade científica da época.
- IV- Após Jane Goodall outras mulheres seguiram atuando na mesma área de pesquisa.

- (a) V- F- V- F
- (b) F- V- F- V
- (c) F- F- V- F
- (d) V- V- F- V**
- (e) V- F- F- V

07) Observe as afirmações abaixo. Quais delas condizem com o que é dito no texto?

- I- Esse tipo de pesquisa poderia ter os mesmos resultados em zoológicos.
- II- O ideal para Jane Goodall era ficar em observação por um longo tempo.
- III- A imersão na vida dos chimpanzés ocorreu durante décadas.
- IV- Goodall tinha feito pesquisas do mesmo tipo em outros lugares anteriormente.

- (a) I, II e III.
- (b) I e IV.
- (c) II e III.**
- (d) III e IV.
- (e) I, II, III e IV.

08) O que NÃO é afirmado no artigo sobre a pesquisa descrita?

- (a) Jane Goodall inclui afetividade pelos animais nos seus estudos.
- (b) Ela provocou a preservação das espécies como um todo.**
- (c) Centenas de publicações científicas foram lançadas no seu centro.
- (d) Goodall demonstra ter sido feliz no local em que fazia suas observações.
- (e) A pesquisadora inspirou os estudos de campo em primatologia.

09) A diferença citada entre a ciência da época e a atual se refere à possibilidade de

- (a) retratar os chimpanzés nos ambientes naturais.
- (b) fazer um trabalho em grande equipe.
- (c) observar a cultura exótica sem preconceito.
- (d) ficar bem perto dos animais observados.**
- (e) escrever artigos com isenção de pensamento.

10) A partir do que foi lido, em que ponto reside o poder da foto analisada?

- (a) Na ligação real entre a mulher e o filhote de chimpanzé.**
- (b) No fato de o animal mamífero não ser adulto.
- (c) No amor pelo lugar escolhido dentro da selva.
- (d) Na conexão entre a ciência e a natureza selvagem.
- (e) No fato de haver uma mãe e um filhote de espécies diferentes.