Me...Jane

The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall

Based on the inspiring picture book about the young girl who would grow up to be Dr. Jane Goodall.
About Jane Goodall

The main character of today’s musical is Dr. Jane Goodall, a primatologist (a scientist who studies primates such as chimpanzees) and anthropologist (a scientist that studies humans and human behavior).

Jane was born in 1934 in London, England. She was gifted a toy chimpanzee named Jubilee when she was a baby. Jane loved Jubilee and became fascinated by chimpanzees. She dreamed of traveling to Africa to study them. When Jane grew up she made her dreams come true. Today she is known throughout the world as the leading expert on chimpanzees, and she has dedicated her life to conservation and animal welfare issues. Today, Jubilee sits on the dresser in her bedroom.

“My mission is to create a world where we can live in harmony with nature. And can I do that alone? No, there is a whole army of youth that can do it. So I suppose my mission is to reach as many of those young people as I can through my own efforts.” – Jane Goodall

About the Show

Me…Jane: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall is based on a picture book written by Patrick McDonnell in 2011. McDonnell is the author and illustrator of several books for children including The Gift of Nothing (which was also turned into a play) and the comic strip MUTTS.

Me…Jane: The Dreams & Adventures of Young Jane Goodall was first performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC in 2017. Just like the Paramount Theatre, the Kennedy Center hosts a wide array of performances encompassing the genres of theatre, dance, and music. To learn more, visit kennedy-center.org.

“The idea of bringing Me…Jane to the stage is very exciting. I love the book and I am sure that the live action will inspire children of all ages to pursue their dreams and to realize if Jane did it, they can do it, too.” – Jane Goodall
Animals In Your Own Backyard

Jane’s love of animals started with the animals she found in her own backyard. She learned a lot by watching the squirrels and chickens right in front of her. What have you learned about the animals found in Central Texas? Read the descriptions, identify their habitat (where the animal lives), then record your observations about their behavior.

White-tailed Deer
Texas is home to 4 million white-tailed deer! They live and eat in wooded and brushy areas. They get their name from their white bushy tails, which they use as flags to communicate danger to other deer.

Habitat: ________________________________
Observations: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Barton Springs Salamander
This small salamander has long limbs, red gills, and is entirely aquatic (it lives in the water). The only place to find it is at Barton Springs under rocks and gravel.

Habitat: __________________________________
Observations: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Mexican Free-tailed Bat
Austin is home to the largest urban bat colony in the world. 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats live under the Congress Avenue Bridge from early spring until November. During the winter they migrate to Mexico where they live in caves.

Habitat: __________________________________
Observations: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

What other animals can you find in Central Texas? Draw three additional local animals and write down what you know about them.

Drawing:
Animal: 
Facts: 

Drawing:
Animal: 
Facts: 

Drawing:
Animal: 
Facts: 

Armadillo
This cat-sized insect-eating mammal has a scaled shell used like armor to protect it from attacks by predators. They can be found in a variety of places including woods, brush, and grasslands.

Habitat: __________________________________
Observations: __________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Animals of Africa

When Jane was 23 years old she finally made it to Africa! Soon she was studying the behavior of free-living chimpanzees in the Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania. Tanzania is home to more than just chimpanzees. There are...

African Bush Elephant
African Bush Elephants are the largest living land animal! The highest population of these elephants lives in Tanzania. The adult elephants have no predators other than humans. While the population is endangered due to poaching (illegal hunting), many people are dedicated to protecting these elephants.

Zebra
Zebras are hoofed animals native to Africa. They are very closely related to horses and donkeys. Every zebra has a unique pattern of black and white stripes. These cool creatures are herbivores and spend most of their day eating grass, and sometimes leaves, shrubs twigs and bark, too.

Lion
Most wild lions live in sub-Saharan Africa. Lions are the only cats that live in groups, called prides, made up of 10 or 15 animals. Male lions have a prominent fringe of long hair called a mane, and patrol and protect their territory. Female lions are the pride’s primary hunters.

Chimpanzee
These great apes live in the wild only in Africa. Chimpanzees can walk on all fours or on two legs. They are very strong and can climb trees and swing from branches. Biologically, chimpanzees are more closely related to humans than they are to gorillas.

Chimp Trivia
Learn more about Jane’s favorite animal! Circle your answer below, then check the answer key on the next page.

1. Chimpanzees are:
   A) monkeys   B) apes

2. Chimpanzees are human’s closest living relative. Scientists believe that humans and chimps shared a common ancestor around 7 million years ago. How much of our genetic DNA do we share with chimps?
   A) 70%   B) 50%   C) 98%   D) 85%

3. In what habitats do chimpanzees live?
   A) tropical rainforests   B) forests   C) dry savannahs   D) all of the above

4. Chimpanzees are covered in hair, give live birth, and drink milk when they are babies. That means they are:
   A) reptiles   B) mammals   C) birds   D) amphibians

5. Chimpanzees are endangered due to:
   A) loss of habitat   B) hunting   C) for use in circuses/zoo   D) all of the above

6. Chimpanzees have varied diets! They are:
   A) herbivores   B) carnivores   C) omnivores

7. The first American in space was a chimpanzee.
   A) True   B) False

Chimp Communication
What’s it like to be a primatologist? One way is by studying how chimpanzees communicate. These clever critters “talk” to each other by using different gestures, facial expressions and numerous sounds, such as hoots, grunts and screams. Draw a line to match up the chimpanzees’ facial expressions with what they are communicating below.
You Make a Difference

Dr. Jane founded the Jane Goodall Institute, a global organization that helps communities near wild places grow more food, have clean water, and send children to school, while also teaching people about environmental conservation. She also founded Roots & Shoots, a program that educates young people everywhere about the world’s environmental and social problems. Their mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, other animals, and the environment.

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.” – Jane Goodall

How can you get involved in Jane’s message of positive change? Circle the ones you want to do below or come up with your own idea!

Help The Hungry
Volunteer at the Central Texas Food Bank by packing, preparing, or passing out food to help the hungry.

Make A Card
Share gratitude or joy with someone in your community who could use an extra reason to smile by making them a greeting card.

Compost
Did you know that almost half of everything we throw away into the landfill could be converted into compost? Austin offers curbside composting! Deposit food scraps, yard trimmings, food-soiled paper, and more in your green bin. If you don’t have city compost in your neighborhood, research online how to create your own compost bin.

Sign A Petition
Join Jane Goodall’s #StopTheShow campaign to put an end to chimpanzees in entertainment.

Plant Seeds
Help monarch butterflies migrating through Texas by planting milkweed! Monarchs are facing a frightening decline due to climate change.

Volunteer With Animals
Contact an animal shelter like Austin Pets Alive!, Austin Humane Society, or the Austin Animal Center. Volunteer your time to walk or play with animals in need of a forever home.

Eat Less Meat
Eat less (or give up) eating meat and pledge #IEATMEATLESS. A more plant-based diet has a positive impact on the environment and animals, both locally and worldwide.

Go Green!
There are many small steps you can take every day to reduce your impact on the environment.

1. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.
2. Turn off the lights when you leave the room.
3. Use both sides of the paper when you draw or color.
4. After washing your hands, dry them on a reusable towel.
5. Bring reusable shopping bags.
6. Recycle!
7. Use a reusable water bottle.
8. Pick up litter and throw it away.

For more ideas, visit: www.rootsandshoots.org

Learn From the Lyrics

EVERY ONE OF US DISTINCT
BUT EVERY ONE OF US IS LINKED
BY A HOME AND BY A HISTORY
BY A UNIVERSAL MYSTERY
FROM THE STARFISH TO THE SWAN
EVERY ONE US PHENOMENONS
AND EVERY ONE OF US HAS WORTH
AREN’T WE LUCKY TO SHARE THE EARTH WITH...
ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS! ANIMALS!

What is the meaning of these lyrics from Me...Jane?
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________

How are they important to the play’s message?
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________

The Paramount Theatre

The Paramount Theatre was built 103 years ago in 1915. Austin is growing, but back then, Congress Avenue was a dirt road and the automobile was a new invention. As one of the first examples of early theatre architecture, the Paramount has been bringing Austin families together for generations.

This school year, we’re thrilled to be celebrating Paramount Education’s 10-year anniversary! We inspire the intellect and imagination of young people by providing opportunities to experience, perform, and learn through the arts. Whether it’s in the theatre where you can make unforgettable memories at our world-class Discovery Series family shows, in our summer camps where kids grades 1-10 perform on our historic stage, or in Austin classrooms where we bring 3rd graders’ original stories to life in front of an audience of their peers... we can’t wait to see you again.

Education Staff

Jennifer Luck, Director of Education
Brian C. Fahey, Associate Director of Education
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Learn more about our education and family programs:
www.austintheatre.org/education