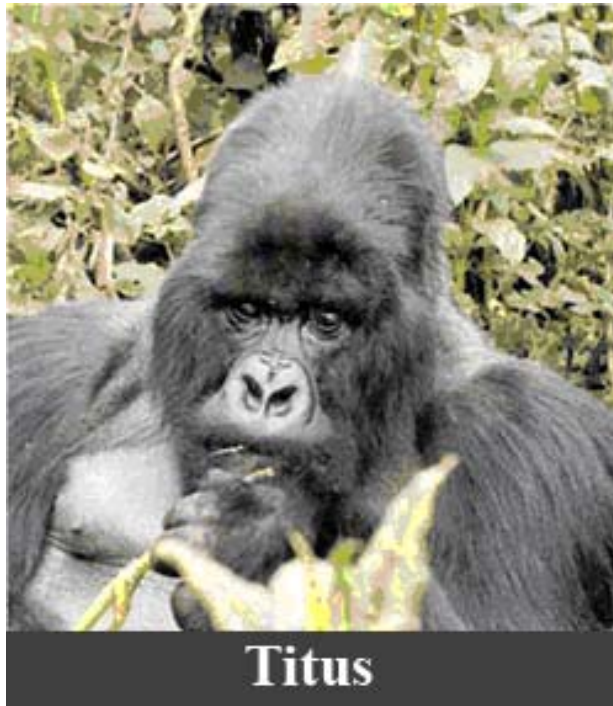


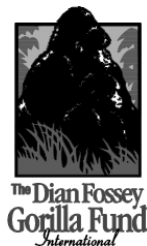
Gorilla Stories

TITUS' STORY:



Titus, now the dominant silverback of Beetsme's group, has been observed throughout his entire life, first by Dian Fossey and then by subsequent staff of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. He was born in August, 1974, as recorded in Fossey's journals and in her book, *Gorillas in the Mist*. Fossey said his birth was a surprise, because his mother (Flossie) did not appear to be pregnant.

At birth, Fossey said that Titus seemed to be "underdeveloped and spindly" and that he had difficulty with his breathing. She also said that Flossie seemed to treat infant Titus with indifference, perhaps because she was rather elderly by this time. But Titus survived his tough beginnings, as well some upheavals in his group. When newcomer Beetsme arrived in the group some five years later, Titus' father and younger brother were killed, and then his mother and sister left to join another group. This left a small group consisting of three males: young Titus, Beetsme, and Tiger. Another lone male, named Peanuts, soon joined them. Beetsme continued to lead various versions of this group, while Titus grew stronger and more handsome, eventually taking over and establishing a strong group with a good variety of males and females, young and adult.



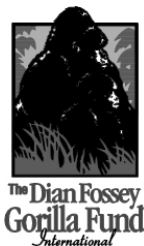
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Gorilla Stories

Titus is said to be a “low-key” yet strong leader of his group. Once, when Shinda (a dominant silverback from another group) came nearby, Titus sat and calmly ate bamboo leaves, completely ignoring Shinda’s displays around him. Eventually, Shinda became frustrated with Titus and left to taunt a group of younger, more excitable blackbacks. Finally, Titus must have decided that enough was enough and he stood up, aimed himself at Shinda and gave one fantastic and finalizing chest-beating display. He then led the rest of the group away in the opposite direction, far away from Shinda.

TITUS’ Q&A:

- 1). What was Titus’ mother’s name? What is your mother’s name?
- 2). What hardships has Titus faced in his life? How did he overcome them?
- 3). How is Titus’ personality described? If you could describe your personality in one word, what would it be?
- 4). How did Titus challenge Shinda? Was he successful?



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