

October 1st is

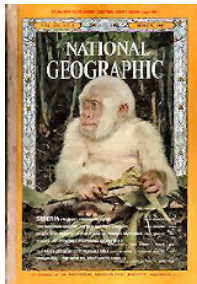


White
Gorilla
Day



Folklore, especially Safganian folklore, had long spoken of the existence of the fabulous white gorilla, a creature of immense beauty, strength and endurance, yet with a playful, even puckish nature. But until relatively recently, little or no evidence had been found that there actually was a white gorilla.

But (according to the March, 1967, *National Geographic* magazine) on October 1st, 1966, an actual, living, breathing, white-haired, blue-eyed baby gorilla was discovered by a hunter in Equatorial Guinea. He was given the name Copito de Nieve (Snowflake) and he lived at the Barcelona Zoo for over 37 years. The gorilla, that is. Not the hunter.



Because Snowflake was found on October 1st, this date has been celebrated every year since as **White Gorilla Day**.

What is the most fitting way to celebrate White Gorilla Day?

Consider this: October 1st (White Gorilla Day) is exactly opposite April 1st (April Fools Day) on the calendar.

Is this a coincidence? Maybe. Or maybe not! Perhaps in the great grand scheme of things it was all planned this way, to provide a badly needed balance to April Fools Day

A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men.

— Joseph Addison

Thus, because the object of April Fools Day is to make a fool of others for one's own amusement, (a questionable practice at best!) the object of White Gorilla Day clearly should be to amuse others by making a fool of oneself.

No one is laughable who laughs at himself.

— Seneca

So go ahead!

There are many ways to celebrate! Tell a stupid joke. Even better, tell a

stupid white gorilla joke.* Put a stuffed white gorilla in the window of your car or house. Don a white gorilla costume, and go from door to door in your neighborhood giving out candy, especially white chocolate candy.

If you can't laugh at yourself, someone else will do it for you, and you won't enjoy it nearly so much.

Bake sugar cookies* in the shape of white gorillas, and take them into work. Hang plastic bananas on your apple tree. Take a day of vacation to do something you've always wanted to do, but haven't because others might consider it too "frivolous." Perhaps you could even visit the Zoo. If you're like most people, a lot has changed since you were there last.

Laughter is the shock absorber for the bumps in life.

White Gorilla Day is an excellent excuse to enjoy the nice fall weather before winter sets in. *If nothing else, check any calendar clocks you own to be sure they're not showing Sept. 31st!*

He who laughs, lasts.

* For more information, see www.thomasgloger.com/wgd.htm

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Question: Are there any precautions one should take when meeting a white gorilla?

Answer: Yes. First, **never touch a white gorilla.** Secondly, **never touch a white gorilla.** There's a third precaution, but it escapes us at the moment.



Question: Under what circumstances is it safe to touch a white gorilla?

Answer: None.

Question: Are there any books or movies about white gorillas?

Answer: There is one rather awful movie, entitled *The White Gorilla*, which was rereleased on DVD in 2004 for reasons we cannot fathom. There are also two books by Bruce Holmberg, which we found to be quite entertaining. The first in the series is *The White Gorilla, Asylum Falls*.

Question: Where does a 900-pound white gorilla sleep?

Answer: Anywhere it wants to.

Question: Where can I find what I need to properly celebrate White Gorilla Day?

Answer: White Gorilla Day is not one that should be celebrated in anything resembling a "proper" manner. As for the items you may need to "do it up right," try an Yahoo, Google, or other Internet search for the words "White Gorilla." Be sure to include quote marks around "White Gorilla."

Question: How many white gorillas does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one. But it takes a lot of light bulbs!

Question: Did Snowflake have any children?

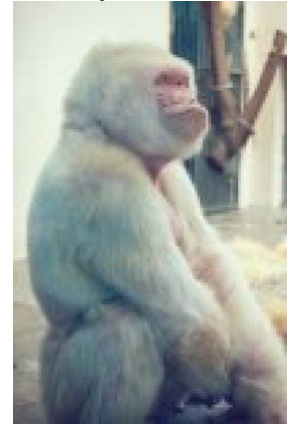
Answer: While at the Barcelona Zoo, he fathered twenty-one baby gorillas, and they in turn have produced ten or more "grand-children," but alas, none of them are white.

Question: What do you get if you cross a white gorilla with a parrot?

Answer: We're not sure, but if it talks, we suggest you listen!

Question: Is Snowflake still alive?

Answer: Sadly, no. Snowflake developed skin cancer, and when his vets saw that he was in pain, and there was nothing they could do for him, they put him to sleep on November 24, 2003. Celebrating White Gorilla Day is one way of keeping his memory alive.



Question: OK, seriously now, what is White Gorilla Day really all about?

Answer: It is the brainchild of two High-School buddies back in the 1960s, based on the original white gorilla joke* and the then-recent discovery of an actual white gorilla. Even though they are both now old enough that they ought to know better, the tradition lives on!

* For more information, see www.thomasgloger.com/wgj.htm