

**Hanging On**  
**Worksheet A**

/ 30 marks

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
[15 X2 marks each]

Read the news article with your partner, then discuss and answer the following questions.

1. After reading the opening paragraph, predict why the title "Hanging On" was a suitable choice for this article.

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2. Explain the suggested meaning of the line in the second paragraph that reads: "If these noble great apes were driven to extinction...it would also mean losing some potential understanding of ourselves."

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3. According to the article, what are some of the leading causes of orangutan decline in Indonesia?

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4. "The orangutans had culture." Explain this statement in your own words and justify your answer with evidence from the text.

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5. Why was it important for Van Schaik to study wild orangutans as opposed to the apes in captivity?

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6. Explain how Van Schaik's orangutans were able to more efficiently access the fat-rich fruit seeds.

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7. Why are orangutans studied less than gorillas and chimpanzees?

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8. Describe a few ways in which orangutans share similar characteristics to humans. How are these ways different than chimps and gorillas?

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9. Orphaned orangutans experience human-like treatment when they are rescued and put into captivity. Explain.

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10. How does Smits attribute the socialization of orangutans to the sophisticated evolvement of human beings?

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11. What are some of the things our society stands to lose should orangutans become extinct?

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12. Galdikas has proposed to save the orangutan by protecting forests in central Borneo. What may hinder this plan?

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13. When growing up in the wild, what responsibilities does the mother orangutan have in raising her baby?

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14. Reflect on the statement on page 5 that reads: "That was when I knew we had really discovered the beginnings of culture."

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15. Does the article's conclusion leave you feeling more optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the orangutan? Explain your thoughts using information from the article to support your answer.

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