

## MAKE IT:



**Zoos are fun.** They are also the best hope many animal species have of survival, as zoologists work hard to protect their populations and study how endangered species might be helped. This is the **Gorilla Rainforest at the Dublin Zoo in Ireland**, where western lowland gorillas native to Africa can romp, climb, or just hang out on more than an acre of wild-looking land.

### ALMOST LIKE HOME

The Gorilla Rainforest reflects the landscape of the Lake Tele Community Reserve in the Republic of the Congo in central Africa. It has areas of grassland, forest, and marshy river habitat. All of these areas were specifically designed by landscape architects who worked with the zoo managers to make the habitat right, based on years of observation of what gorillas in the wild prefer.

### ROOM TO MOVE

The gorillas in Dublin practically have their own island. A big moat keeps the gorillas safe in their area but lets them move about freely with plenty of space and room, and wide views of their surroundings. A holding area allows the zookeepers to give the gorillas the care they need up close.

### FAMILY MATTERS

The Dublin Zoo is home to seven gorillas. They include Lena, who is about 33 years old and has a baby born in 2016, Mayani, Kambiri, Kafi, Vana, and Tebogo. The zoo's goal is to have a troop of 12 to 15 gorillas in all.

