

Lake of

NG KiDS checks out one of the world's most incredible stretches of fresh water — Africa's enormous Lake Tanganyika...

WONDER!

Stretching a colossal 673km from end to end (that's farther than London to Aberdeen), **Lake Tanganyika**, in eastern Africa, is the **longest** and second deepest lake in the world.

Surrounded by four countries — Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia — this beautiful Great Lake is home to **600 unique species not found anywhere else** in the world.

So grab your sunhat and join us as we meet the creatures that call Tanganyika's waters home...



View from above!

More than 1,400m deep in places and with 1,900km of shoreline, Lake Tanganyika contains almost a fifth of our planet's fresh water.



This image was taken from a satellite orbiting the Earth.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Lake Tanganyika may be deep, but there's very little life below about 200m. At its deepest point, the lake's 'fossil water' is thought to be about 20 million years old!



Otters and terrapins...

Super species

Lake Tanganyika and the forests that surround it are teeming with wildlife. All seven species of crab found here are **unique** to the lake. Hippos wallow in the shallows while otters and Nile crocodiles swim alongside terrapins. Giant kingfishers and cormorants rely on the lake's warm waters for their daily meals — dining on its fish.

... crocodiles...



... hungry hippos...

... mouthbrooding cichlids...

Open wide!

Tanganyika is home to at least 470 species of fish. An incredible 245 types of **cichlid** (a colourful kind of fish) are found *nowhere else in the wild*. Most of the cichlid species in Lake Tanganyika protect their young with their mouths — but not by biting or attacking predators. Instead, they **mouthbrood**, opening their cavernous mouths at the sign of danger, allowing their young to swim inside for protection (left!).



... giant kingfishers...



Swing with the chimps

It's not just the lake's crystal clear waters that are bursting with life. Long before you spot them in the trees, you'll hear the loud, piercing sound of **chimpanzees** chattering to each other. World-renowned ape expert **Jane Goodall** came to Lake Tanganyika's eastern shore in 1960 to begin her ground-breaking research on chimpanzees.

And 54 years on, **Gombe Stream National Park** in Tanzania still has a population of around 100 chimps.



... and chimpanzees are all part of Tanganyika's amazing biodiversity!

Turn over to meet a lady who's taken Tanganyika to her heart...