

Gerald Durrell



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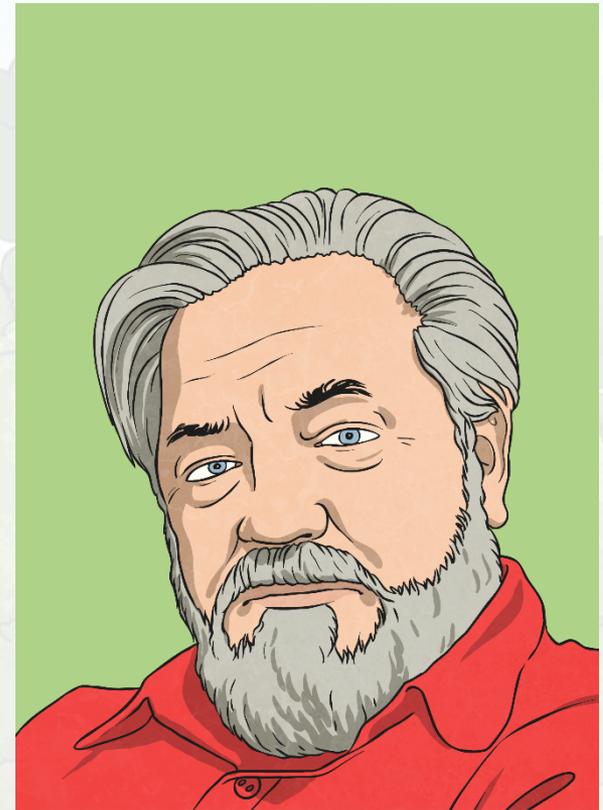
Who is Gerald Durrell?

Gerald Durrell was an English conservationist.

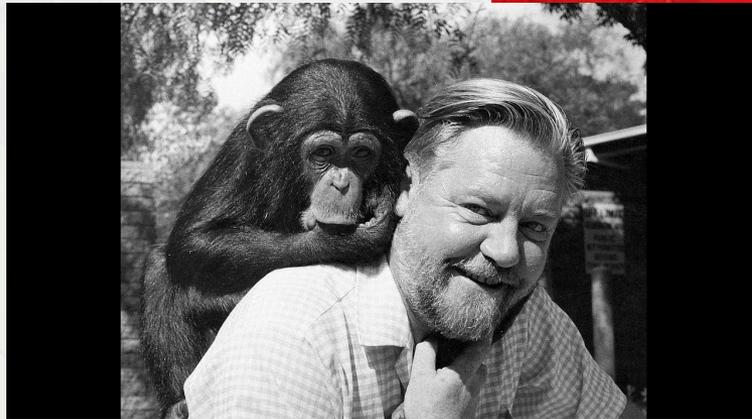
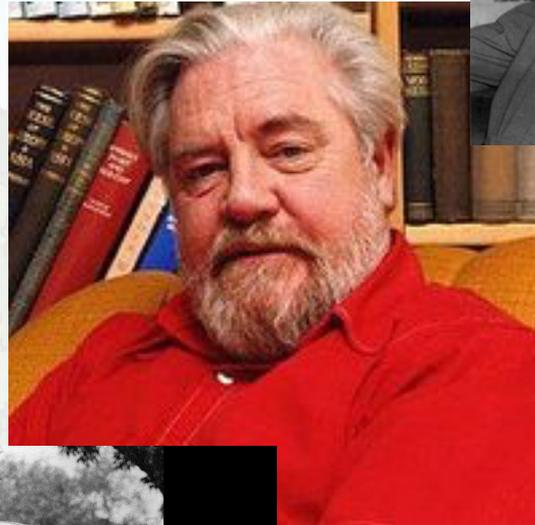
He worked extremely hard to preserve endangered animals around the world.

He set up the Durrell Wildlife Trust and a zoo to protect endangered animals.

Conservationist - someone who works to protect the environment.



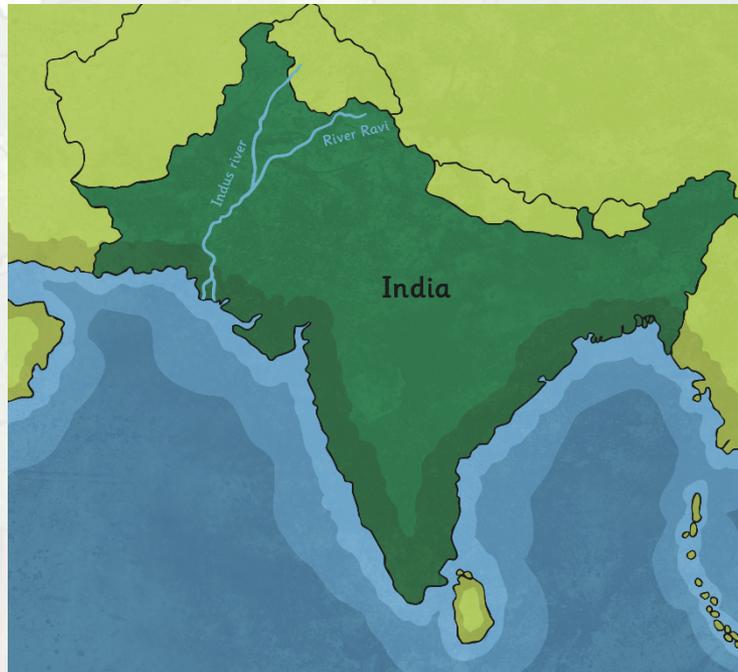
Gerald Durrell



Who is Gerald Durrell?

Gerald Durrell was born on 5th January, 1925 in Jamshedpur, India.

When Gerald was three years old, his family moved back to England.



How Did he Become Interested in Wildlife?

When he was 10 years old, his family moved to the island of Corfu. This is where Gerald Durrell became fascinated with animals and all things living.

He was thrilled to get a donkey for his birthday from his mother and siblings. However, his brother, Larry, poked the donkey in one of its hooves. Because it was hurt, it kicked Larry!



Gerald's sister Margot with his donkey.



Gerald moved to Corfu when he was 10 years old.

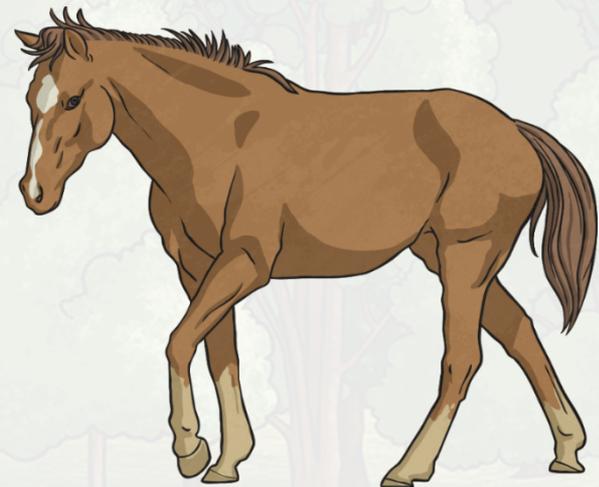
Life in England?

When the Second World War began in 1939, the Durrell family moved back to the UK. They lived in Bournemouth, a seaside town in the south of England.

Due to his love of animals, Gerald got a job working in a local pet shop.

He loved riding horses, eventually became a stable hand and riding instructor.

When he was 21 years old, he inherited £3000. He used this money to pay for his first animal collecting expedition.



What Did He Do on His Expeditions?

Over the next ten years, he travelled around the world, to collect animals for the major British zoos.

He was interested in these animals and how to look after them.



Life As An Author?

In the 1950s, he began to write about his adventures and the animals he had met.

His first book, 'The Overloaded Ark', was published in 1953. Altogether, he wrote 33 books, including 'My Family and Other Animals', his most famous book.

Can you name any animals which you know have become extinct or are endangered?



His Major Achievements?

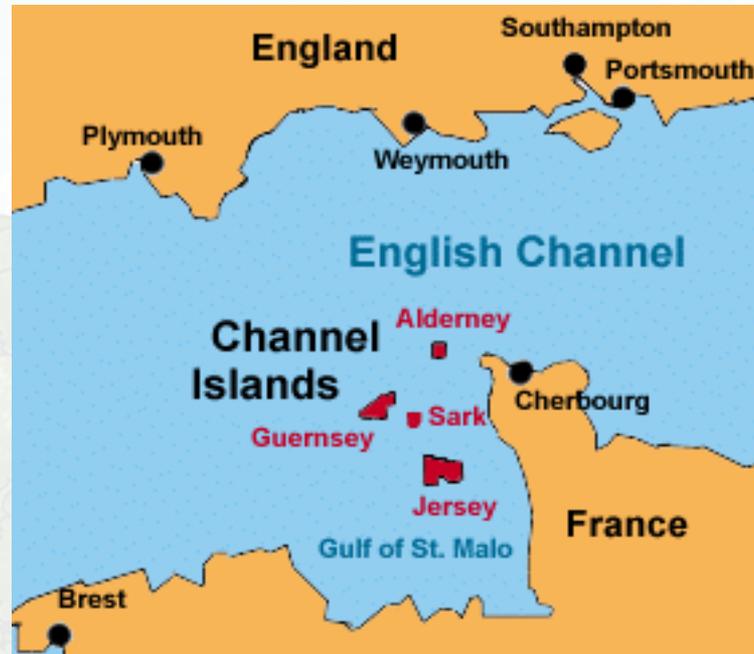
In January 1959, he opened Jersey Zoo, which had a great collection of animals from the beginning. There were lots of rare monkeys and other mammals, as well as birds and reptiles.

In 1963, he set up the Jersey Preservation Trust (later the Durrell Trust). He wanted zoos to be used to protect endangered animals.

Can you name any animals which you know have become extinct or are endangered?



Can you find the island of Jersey on the map?



His Major Achievements?

The rare, white-eared pheasant was bred for the first time at Jersey Zoo.



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His Major Achievements?

In 1984, the 25th Anniversary of Jersey Zoo and the 21st Anniversary of the Durrell Trust were celebrated

In 1990, he ran an expedition to Madagascar. Species collected included the elusive aye-aye, a bizarre lemur, the giant jumping rat and the flat-tailed tortoise. All of them settled down quickly in Jersey Zoo and began to breed.



What do we remember him for?

Durrell died on 30th January 1995, aged 70.

After his death, the Durrell Trust continued to work around the world and significantly in Madagascar.

Durrell did amazing work in the area of animal and wildlife conservation and is admired worldwide.

