



You and the Zoo
Pre-visit Activities
Kindergarten - Grade Three

The “You and the Zoo” program is an educational walking tour that provides an opportunity for your students to see some of the animals at the zoo with a specially trained zoo educator. It is approximately 45 min. – 1 hour in duration, and is separate from our other presentations.

If you have time before your program starts, you may want to try to visit some other animals, or study animals that are a part of the focus of your trip.

The following is a list of some animals you may see during your tour: macaw, rhinoceros, giraffe, ostrich, zebra, eland, wallaby, tiger, jaguar, lemur, cheetah, baboon, capybara, peccary, and lion.

This list is subject to change and is provided simply for your convenience; it is unlikely that time will allow viewing of all of the species. Please note that some of the animals may only be available for viewing seasonally.

Creating a focus for your program:

Explain to the students that you will be going to the Greater Vancouver Zoo for a field trip. It is important that the students understand they will be asked to make specific observations on this trip.

Giving the students a focus for their trip will help them to make the most of their educational experience: e.g. if you decide to assign each student their own animal (as in one of the suggestions below), you could have each student formulate questions to guide observations of their animal.

Vocabulary

Introducing new vocabulary is important for preparing the students for their outing to the zoo. Our Kindergarten activity book, A Visit to the Zoo (free download available at www.gvzoo.com in our Teacher Resource Center), contains a section to assist students in learning zoological vocabulary (other grades will follow). The activity book is labeled as “Kindergarten” because of the references it makes to the alphabet and letter sounds; however, it contains applicable content for Kindergarten to Grade Three.

These are some words that are explained in the free downloadable booklet, and may be used during the program with the zoo educator.

1. *Camouflage*^{*}: concealment by disguise or protective colouring.
2. *Endangered*^{**}: when a species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
3. *Extinction*^{**}: when there is no reasonable doubt the last individual has died.
4. *Habitat*: where an animal lives. The animal’s needs of food, water, and shelter are met here.
5. *Predator*: an animal that hunts other animals for food.

* www.dictionary.com

** IUCN Red List of threatened species; www.redlist.org

6. *Prey*: an animal that is hunted by other animals for food.

7. *Zoo**: a collection of living animals, usually for public display

Preparation for follow-up:

Option #1 - You may wish to bring a camera to take photos of the animals you see while at the zoo. One of the suggested follow-up activities uses the photos you take during the day. We understand this may be cost prohibitive and may not work for your class.

Option #2 – You may want to assign an animal to each student and have them make a picture while at the zoo, to help them remember what their animal looks like.

Preparing for the trip:

Where is the zoo located?

- Use a large local map and mark where your school is and where the Greater Vancouver Zoo is.
- Explain how you will be travelling to the zoo (car or bus), and how you will be getting there (highway or roads).
- Be sure to let the students know approximately how long it will take to get to the zoo.

Zoo Rules

Before you visit the Greater Vancouver Zoo it is important to tell your students the following rules:

- Please do not feed the animals. This can make them ill and transfer diseases.
- Please be respectful of the animals. Remember this is their home, so do not yell or throw items at the animals.

Reminder:

Please remind your students to dress appropriately for the weather. We do not have many indoor areas and they will need to be properly prepared.

Our free downloadable Kindergarten Activity Book (other grades to follow) reviews the above rules and preparation.

If you have a specific area you have been studying, or if your group has any special needs, please inform your educator before you begin your tour and we will do our best to accommodate you.

* Merriam-Webster www.m-w.com