

You and the Zoo Field Trip Package



Description

Students will learn basic facts about some of the animals on our African Savannah Route. This includes what they eat, where they live, how they are connected to other animals in the environment, and physical features necessary for survival. This field trip is designed to be an introduction to some of the animals encountered at the zoo. During this time of exploration with a tour guide, students will be encouraged to ask questions to further their knowledge of each animal using inquiry-based practice. This field trip is geared towards grades K-3 and is approximately 45 minutes in duration.

This information package can help you summarize ideas to help you get the most from your trip to the zoo.

Links to the Current BC Curriculum

Kindergarten

- Plants and animals have observable features (Big Ideas)
- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world (Curricular Competency)
- Basic needs of plants and animals (Content)
- Living things make changes to accommodate seasonal and daily changes (Content)

Grade 1

- Living things have features and behaviours that help them survive in their environment (Big Idea)
- Demonstrate curiosity and a sense of wonder about the world (Curricular Competency)
- Consider some environmental consequences of their actions (Curricular Competency)
- Classification of living and non-living things (Content)
- Names of local plants and animals (Content)
- Behavioral adaptations of animals in the local environment (Content)

Preparing for the Program

Location: This may be a student's first visit to the zoo, therefore being prepared will help ease any nervousness or anxiety some younger students may have about visiting a new place. These are some things that teachers should review with their students prior to and upon arrival at the zoo.

- Where the zoo is in relation to your school.
- Duration of the trip to the zoo and mode of transportation to the zoo.
- Designated meeting place set out at the zoo in case any adult or student gets separated from the group, and point this out on the map upon arrival.

5048 – 264 Street, Aldergrove, BC Canada V4W 1N7
Tel: 604.856.6825 | gvzoo.com



Vocabulary: Before attending the zoo, students should be aware of the following words, as they will be used during the program.

- Camouflage: concealment by disguise of protective coloring
- Endangered: when a species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future
- Extinction: when there is no reasonable doubt that the last animal in a species has died
- Habitat: where an animal lives and receives the basic needs of food, water and shelter
- Predator: an animal that hunts other animals for food
- Prey: an animal that is hunted by other animals for food
- Adaptation: something an animal has on or inside its body, or how it behaves, that helps it survive in the wild

Dressing for the weather: There are not many indoor/covered areas at the zoo, so it is important to dress for the weather.

- If raining: waterproof shoes and jackets are necessary. Umbrellas are optional.
- If sunny: sunscreen, hats and water bottles are necessary.

Safety Guidelines: Here at the zoo, we want you to have fun, but our priority is the safety of our visitors and animals. These guidelines will help keep you and the animals safe.

- Do not feed the animals.
- Do not touch the animals.
- Respect all barriers and fences.

Information Guide

Every animal on the planet has the same basic needs; water, food, shelter and space, just like us! To obtain these basic needs, animals live in a **habitat**. A habitat is an area of the world that provides for all their basic needs. Sometimes many animals will share the same habitat because they require the same basic needs. Other times, animals will have a small habitat all to themselves!

How animals get their basic needs depends on their habitat. Animals have many ways of obtaining their needs through **adaptations**. An adaptation is something an animal, or other living thing, has on or inside their body, or how they behave, that helps them survive. If an animal lives in the desert, it needs to work harder to find water than an animal living in the rainforest. They must adapt to their habitat, like a camel that stores excess fat in its hump to survive temporarily without water.

When we think of animals getting their basic needs, we often think about food. There are two big ways animals get food – either from plants or from meat. Animals that eat meat are called **predators**, or carnivores, as they hunt other animals. On the other hand, animals that eat plants are called herbivores, and are the **prey**, or food source, for predators.

As earth travels around the sun, it causes our planet to go through seasonal changes. Depending on where you are in the world, these changes will happen at different times of the year and can be very big changes or barely noticeable. Animals living in Canada must be able to deal with cold winters, and still meet their basic needs. Some animals leave during winter, called **migration**. A well-known example are birds who fly south every winter. Other animals go to sleep, or **hibernate**, during winter. When they sleep, their body slows down, so it doesn't need as much food, water, or air. Think of bears and turtles, who are both Canadian hibernating animals. Finally, some animals grow thick winter fur so they can stay warm during winter, like Musk Ox. Animals must **adapt** for seasonal changes, but how they change depends on where their habitat is.