



Animal Habitats

Yesterday, you looked at different zoos around the world and learned a little about them and some of the animals that they house. In today's activity, you will research some of the animals you learned about and determine what kind of zoo habitat your animal would thrive in best.

TEKS:

5.9A Observe the way organisms live and survive in their ecosystem by interacting with the living and non-living elements.

7.10A Observe and describe how different environments, including microhabitats in schoolyards and biomes, support different varieties of organisms.

How To:

1. Select an animal from the following list to learn more about. You can choose your favorite animal or pick several to research. Make sure to print an *Animal Habitats Page* (attached below) for each animal you plan to research.
Alligator, Bear, Butterfly, Cheetah, Crab, Dolphin, Electric Eel, Elephant, Flamingo, Fox, Frog, Giraffe, Hippo, Iguana, Jellyfish, Koala, Lemur, Lion, Monkey, Ostrich, Owl, Panda, Parrot, Peacock, Python, Rhino, Shark, Tiger, Turtle, Zebra
2. Using the sites found in the 'Resource' section, answer the questions found on the *Animal Habitats Page* for each of your animal(s).
3. Once you've finished, sketch a design of a zoo habitat that you think would be appropriate for your animal(s). The more details you add, the better!

Materials:

- Computer or tablet with an Internet connection
- Pencil
- Paper
- Animal Habitats Page (attached below)

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The STEM Explanation:

When designing zoo habitats, zoologists and architects must work together to make sure that the habitat suits the animal's needs. The habitat should allow the animal to have plenty of room (especially if it's a group of animals) and replicate the environment and climate that the animal is used to living in. It's important that the habitat is as close to the animal's real home in nature as possible in order to help the animal live a long and healthy life.

Career Connection:

Zoologists study animal life and the interactions of animals with other organisms and their environment. Zoologists work to understand animal behavior in their natural habitats and do their best to recreate these habitats for animals in captivity. They work to provide animals with enrichment activities and protect threatened and endangered species. They also may work to breed certain endangered animals and train them to be reintroduced in the wild. In addition to studying animal behavior, zoologists often focus on genetics and ecology.

Resources:

- <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals>
- <http://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/animals>
- <http://www.aqua.org/explore/animals>

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Animal Habitats Page

Name of your animal:

Animal Class (circle yours):

Mammal Reptile Fish Bird

Describe the environment and climate that this animal lives in:

List types of food that this animal eats:

Describe the place where this animal sleeps:

When does this animal sleep?

Day Night

Do this animal live alone or in a group?

Alone Group

Describe how much space this animal needs. Are there other types of animals it can live with?

List any objects that can be used to occupy the animal's time throughout the day (balls, toys, etc.):

On the back of this page or on a separate sheet of paper, sketch a design of a habitat you think would be appropriate for your animal.

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