

INQUIRY GUIDE

Grades 6-8



MAKE YOUR FIELD TRIP A SUCCESS!

Follow this guide as you visit each area of the zoo.

The packet is arranged as follows:

- Zoo map
- Where in the World Activity: Zoo-wide
- Habitat Design Activity: Zoo-wide
- Stereotypes Behavior: Reptile House
- PiCA Activity: Primates of the World/ Giants of the Amazon Building; Jaguar Habitat
- Rhino Riddle: Rhino Habitat
- Animal Ethogram: Animal of your choice from list provided
- Information on volunteering

For a successful visit, please respect:

- **Our animals.** Please do not tap on the glass, call out to the animals, or try to touch an animal outside of the Barn in Alabama Wilds.
- **Zoo grounds.** Please help keep the zoo clean by disposing of all trash and recyclables in the bins provided.
- **Other guests.** Please be mindful about the eye line of other visitors at a viewing area. Are you blocking the way for a visitor who may be shorter to you? If you happen to see, hear, or feel anything you think is dangerous or offensive, please find the nearest zoo staff member.
- **Employees and volunteers.** Our highly trained professionals work hard to ensure you have a positive experience during your visit. Many of our animal care professionals are happy to chat with you and answer any of your questions, but may not be able to do so until they are finished training an animal or have finished the task at hand.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

The Birmingham Zoo strives to replicate the environment in which animals would be found in the wild. The zoo's dedicated team of animal care professionals - also called keepers- work to recreate dozens of natural habitats found throughout the world.

Directions: Where does this animal live in the wild? Select animals around the zoo from 20 different countries or regions of the world and label the map with where each species can be found below.



HABITAT DESIGN

Choose one of the animals you saw today. How do you think the animal care professionals have made this habitat look like the animal's wild habitat? Consider temperature, access to water, and the natural feeding behaviors of the animal. _____

Adaptations are physical features or behaviors of an animal that help it survive. An example of a physical adaptation is the long trunk found on an elephant which helps it to manipulate objects in its environment. An example of a behavioral adaptation is the migration of Canada geese to warmer climates during the cold winter months.

How is the habitat designed to suit this animal's adaptations? _____

Enrichment is anything that encourages the natural behaviors of our animals. Animal care professionals use a variety of enrichment including new objects to see, smell, taste, and explore. For example, if an animal searches for its food in the wild, care professionals can place food in a tube to encourage foraging and stimulate problem solving.

What was your favorite animal enrichment you saw today in an animal's habitat? _____

How does this enrichment stimulate an animal's natural behavior? _____

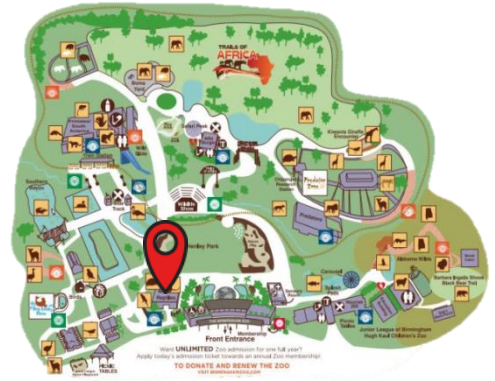
Sketch the enrichment item you liked the most below:



ANIMAL STEREOTYPES

Location: Reptile House

A **stereotype** is a specific image or idea associated with members of a group. For example, black cats have been stereotyped as a symbol of bad luck.



Fill out the information below to consider and explore animal stereotypes and the impacts they may have on an animal's survival.

Chosen Animal: _____

1. List six words that immediately come to mind when you think of this animal.

2. Are the words you wrote above mostly positive or negative? Why do you think you have that opinion? _____

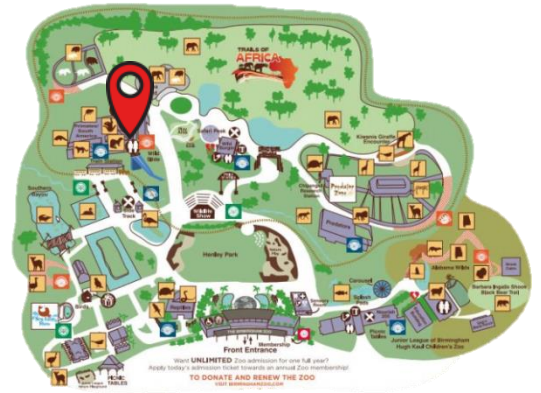
3. Do the information on the sign and the look of the habitat support those ideas? Why do you think that is? _____

4. What are some examples from stories or history that portray this animal in a stereotypical way? (For example, an owl might always be portrayed as a wise animal.) ? _____

PASSION INTO CONSERVATION ACTION

Location: Jaguar Habitat in the Primate Building

Birmingham Zoo employees are passionate about conserving the natural world. The Passion into Conservation Action grant, or PiCA, allows staff to take part in worldwide conservation projects. The Birmingham Zoo has sent employees from across the zoo to 6 continents and over 15 countries.



Take a look at the PiCA program recipients along the back wall. Which project do you find the most interesting? Why?

Select three projects and list their benefits to conservation. What do you think "conservation" means?

If you had the opportunity to experience research and conserve any animal on a PiCA project, what would your project be?

Using the past projects as a guide, fill out the graphic below:



RHINO RIDDLE

Location: Rhino Habitat

There are five species of rhinoceroses on Earth. Use the chart below and follow the arrows to figure out which species we have at the Birmingham Zoo! Color in the arrow with your pencil that matches the right answer to describe the rhino you see, and then circle the correct species.



Does the rhino have one horn or two horns?

One



Two



Does the rhino have hairy ears or smooth ears?

Is the rhino covered with thick hair?

Yes

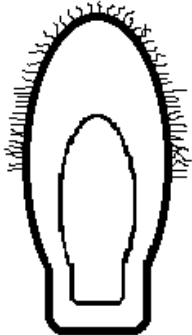


No



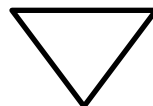
Sumatran Rhino

Does the rhino have a pointy lip like a triangle or round lip like a square?



Smooth

Hairy



Triangle

Square



Javan Rhino

Greater One-Horned Rhino



Black Rhino

White Rhino

ANIMAL ETHOGRAM

Pick one type of animal to watch: Flamingos, Spider Monkeys, or Zebras

Ethograms are charts that record the behavior of an animal. Below are a few steps to perform your ethogram.

1. Choose an animal to observe for five minutes.
2. To make sure your information is accurate, stay in one spot without moving and set a timer for five minutes to mark your observations at the correct time.
3. Every 30 seconds, mark the behavior on the chart that you see below. If you don't know where to place the behavior, look at the behavior definitions below.
4. Be sure to only mark one behavior at every time stamp, even if your animal is doing two things at once, like eating and walking. For example, after observing the animal for one minute the researcher might make one mark under feeding next to the 1:00 time box.

Researcher: _____ Species: _____

Behavior Definitions

Feeding: The animal is eating food or drinking water. This includes chewing.

Social: The animal is engaging in behaviors that appear friendly with another animal.

Self-Grooming: Engaging in grooming or other self-care activities.

Active: Any type of movement, whether it running, walking, or some other locomotion.

Inactive: Sleeping, just remaining still, not doing any apparent behavior.

Not Visible: Animal is off exhibit, or you are unable to see the animal you were observing.

Other: A behavior not described above.

Animal behavior hypothesis: _____

Time	Feeding	Social	Self-Grooming	Active	Inactive	Not Visible	Other
0:30							
1:00							
1:30							
2:00							
2:30							
3:00							
3:30							
4:00							
4:30							
5:00							
Total							

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Interested in working at a zoo? You will need to know what you're getting into, as well as show your interest to people who can later write you references or guide you to open positions. If you are 13 or older, you can do this by volunteering or interning! These are great ways to spend your summer vacation!



To find out more about volunteer opportunities at the Birmingham Zoo, contact:

volunteers@birminghamzoo.com or visit our website at www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/volunteer/