



Investigations at the Zoo for 5th-12th Grades

Theme: Wildlife Investigations

Explore the Zoo and Find:

An interesting animal from your chosen ecosystem (or any animal, if you have not studied a particular ecosystem before coming to the Zoo):

My animal:

My animal can be found in this ecosystem:

Is your animal a predator or a prey animal?

If your animal is a prey animal, what do you think it eats? Who do you think would eat it?

If your animal is a predator, what kinds of animals do you think it eats?

Draw your animal in the box below. Label special features that would help your animal to find food, catch prey, or keep from being eaten.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing an animal and labeling its special features.

Do you think your animal might be an endangered species? If so, please explain why you think so.

What else would you like to know about your animal?

What can you do to help protect wildlife and natural ecosystems? (Use the back of this paper for your answer.)

After your Zoo visit:

1. Create a list of factors that might influence the health of their chosen ecosystem. Consider factors such as climate change, disease, habitat encroachment and pollution (air and water). Focus on how food chains would be affected.

2. Create an imaginary investigation based on the animal that they chose to draw during their Zoo visit. You will generate a list of questions about that animal. Design an investigation that could theoretically be done at the Zoo or in the animal's natural habitat. This investigation should include how you would set up their investigation, the question that you hope to answer with this investigation and a hypothesis related to your question. You may create imaginary results based on your knowledge of the animal, its ecosystem and the investigation process.