



MINNESOTA ZOO™  
Changing how you see the world

# Animal Behavior Introduction to Animal Enrichment Pre-visit Activity

## MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grades 9-12 Strand I.A  
The student will understand the nature of scientific ways of thinking and that scientific knowledge changes and accumulates over time.

Grades 9-12 Strand I.B  
The student will design and conduct a scientific investigation.

## Vocabulary:

Animal Behavior  
Animal Observation  
Animal Enrichment

## Links:

Minnesota Zoo enrichment  
[www.mnzoo.org/animals/enrichment/index.asp](http://www.mnzoo.org/animals/enrichment/index.asp)

Information about other  
AZA animal enrichments  
[www.aza.org/ForEveryone/enrichment/](http://www.aza.org/ForEveryone/enrichment/)

## Introduction:

This activity will introduce students to animal enrichment. Animal enrichment is used to get animals to interact with their environment and use their natural skills and behaviors.

## Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Research an animal using available technology.
2. Create an enrichment item for the animal that he/she has selected to observe.

## Procedure:

1. Have the students choose an animal that they encounter on a regular basis (their pet, a neighbor's pet, etc.).
2. Allow time for the students to read the section on animal enrichment at the Zoo's website.
3. The students should then conduct research on their animal.
4. Have them brainstorm what types of activities could be made for their animal of choice.
5. Have students explain their ideas to their peers for feedback and refinement.
6. The students then need to bring in the materials to create their enrichment item.
7. Once completed, have the students give a short presentation to the class as to what their item is and how it will work.
8. Allow students an opportunity to try their enrichment activity and record what happens.
9. Have students give another summary (written or oral report) based on the actual behaviors students observed from their animal with their enrichment item.