



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Animal Behavior Animal Enrichment Zoo 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 Enrichment
Olfactory Enrichment
Auditory Enrichment
Foraging
Vocalization
Grooming
Ethogram

Introduction:

This lesson will help students understand the importance of enrichment for zoo animals.

Objectives:

At the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Students will use their observation skills.
2. To learn more about the natural behaviors of Sun Bears.

Procedure:

1. Prior to your visit, print out the Sun Bear Ethogram worksheet. Make copies for each student or group of students (*if preferred*)
2. Visit the Sun Bear exhibit in the Tropics Trail.
3. Watch the Sun Bear for a total of 10 minutes.
4. Record what the Sun Bear does during the 10 minute observation period by recording data in the ethogram.
5. Find a zoo volunteer and ask him or her about what is used to provide enrichment for the Sun Bears or watch the enrichment video in the Sun Bear exhibit graphics.

Analysis:

1. What was the most common activity of the Sun Bear?
2. Is this a natural behavior? How can you tell?
3. What types of enrichment did you find in the exhibit?
4. What types of enrichment would you design for the Sun Bear?

Links:

Information about other AZA animal enrichments
<http://www.aza.org/ForEveryone/enrichment/>

Minnesota Zoo enrichment information
<http://www.mnzoo.org/animals/enrichment/index.asp>

Honolulu Zoo enrichment information
http://www.honolulu zoo.org/enrichment_activities.htm

Smithsonian National Zoo enrichment information
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/AnimalEnrichment/>

Time	Behavior (Circle one / Describe Other)
Initial: 0 minutes	Forage Resting Other _____
1 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
2 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
3 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
4 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
5 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
6 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
7 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
8 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
9 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
10 min.	Forage Resting Other _____
Total Time:	Forage = _____ minutes
	Resting = _____ minutes
	Other = _____ minutes



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