



MINNESOTA ZOO™
Changing how you see the world

Animal Conservation Animals in Focus Onsite Activity

MN Graduation Standards supported:

Grade 7 Strand IV.C

The student will understand that within ecosystems, complex interactions exist between organisms and the physical environment.

Grade 8 Strand I.A

The student will understand that science is a way of knowing about the world that is characterized by empirical criteria, logical argument and skeptical review.

Grades 8-12 Strand III.A

The student will investigate the impact humans have the environment.

Grade 9-12 Strand I.C

The student will understand the relationship between science and technology and how both are used.

Grades 9-12 Strand IV.C

The student will describe how the environment and interactions between organisms can affect the number of species and the diversity of species in an ecosystem.

Introduction:

Using the information gathered already in the “Who’s in Charge of each SSP Animal Species?” (*see pre-visit activities*), students will gather further information and conduct a behavioral assessment to include in their presentation on an animal at the Minnesota Zoo who is part of a Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Objectives: Students will be able to collect further information about a selected animal and present it in a concise and organized fashion. Students will become keen observers and recorders of specific animal behaviors and locations.

Procedure:

1. While at the zoo, gather information about any one of the animals from the SSP list below or the Endangered and Threatened Species at the Minnesota Zoo (second list below).
2. Assign the animals on the following lists beforehand to students.
3. Print and hand each to each student group the directions to “Who’s in Charge of each SSP Animal Species?” (*see pre-visit activities*)
4. While at the zoo each student or group of students would be responsible for:
 - a. gathering information from signs accompanying the exhibit,
 - b. taking pictures or doing drawings of the behaviors exhibited (teacher discretion advised),
 - c. environmental conditions of the exhibit and surroundings used to house the animals or groups of animals,
 - d. what (if any) enhancements are used to stimulate or create behaviors,
 - e. observe/record animal behaviors for a 10-15 minute period of time.

Vocabulary:

Endangered
Threatened
SSP

Links:

Minnesota Zoo website
www.mnzoo.org

Procedure Continued:

5. All of this information can be used later in a brochure, bulletin board display, report, etc. when the student returns home from the zoo.

The Minnesota Zoo currently participates in 24 SSP programs. The SSP species found in our collection are:

Amur tiger	Matschie's tree kangaroo
Asian small-clawed otter	Mexican gray wolf
Bali mynah	Przewalski's horse
Clouded leopard	Pygmy loris
Cotton-top tamarin	Radiated tortoise
Fishing cat	Red panda
Golden lion tamarin	Red ruffed lemur
Greater hornbill	Rhinoceros hornbill
Japanese macaque	Ring-tailed lemur
Keel-billed toucan	Victoria crowned pigeon
Komodo monitor	White-cheeked gibbon
Malayan sun bear	
Malayan tapir	

Endangered & Threatened Species at the Minnesota Zoo

Amur leopard	Malayan sun bear
Amur tiger	Keel-billed Toucan
Asian brown tortoise	Komodo monitor
Asian small-clawed otter	Malayan tapir
Bactrian camel	Matschie's tree kangaroo
Baikal teal	Military macaw
Bald Eagle	Mexican wolf
Bali mynah	Nicobar pigeon
Binturong	North American river otter
Black-breasted leaf turtle	Peregrine falcon
Canadian lynx	Przewalski's horse
Chilean Pudu	Puma
Cloud rat	Pygmy loris
Clouded leopard	Red-breasted goose
Cotton-top tamarin	Red panda
Crested wood partridge	Rhinoceros hornbill
Fishing cat	Star tortoise
Golden lion tamarin	Slow loris
Goral	Takin
Green-cheeked Amazon parrot	Victoria crowned pigeon
Green sea turtle	White-cheeked gibbon
Greater hornbill	Wolverine
Hyacinth macaw	Woodland caribou
Japanese macaque	Wood Turtle
	Yellow-naped Amazon parrot

