

THE CHILDREN'S ZOO

Scavenger Hunt
GRADES K-3



Saint Louis Zoo
Animals Always®

THE CHILDREN'S ZOO

TEACHER'S GUIDE

Updated Fall 2008

Suggestions for Teachers

1. Allow your children about 60 minutes for this scavenger hunt. The activities take you to different areas of the Children's Zoo (CZ). Remember, during the colder months there will not be as many animals on display outdoors. You will want to allow more time if you plan to look at other exhibits along the way.
2. The Children's Zoo daily hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and summer hours are 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Friday of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day). Free admission is offered during the first hour of operation. Admission is \$4.00 after the free hour. Group rates are available from our Groups Sales Department at (314) 781-0900.
3. In the warmer months, the CZ can be very crowded, so allow extra time to complete your scavenger hunt.
4. Divide your class into small groups of five or fewer students with an adult to help each group. This scavenger hunt is intended to be adult led. Consequently, written tips for the adults are included where they might be helpful. There are student activity pages at the end that students can do as they go along.

Suggested pre-visit activities

1. Look over the following pages ahead of time with your students so they will have some idea of what they will be doing at the zoo.
2. There are additional pre- and post-visit activities for the CZ available from the Education Department.
3. Check out the Pets and Their Wild Relatives Zoocase from the Saint Louis Zoo Library & Teacher Resource Center. Zoocases, our hands-on kits, are available for a two-week loan. Please call (314) 646-4555 for more information.

Suggested post-visit activities

1. Extend these activities to the senses. Compare and contrast human senses with animal senses. Activities are available in the Teacher Resource Center to use on zoo grounds.
2. Use the following thought-provokers for journal writing or group discussions:
 - Something I saw at the Zoo....
 - My favorite animal at the Zoo...
 - If a meerkat (turtle, lorikeet) could talk, it might say...
 - If I were a naked mole rat, I would dig to...

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

carnivore- an animal that feeds on other animals; meat-eating or predatory

crepuscular-active at dusk and dawn

diurnal- active during the day rather than at night

habitat- area/ type of environment in which an organism lives and meets its needs

herbivore- an animal that feeds on plants; plant-eater

marsupial: an animal who has a pouch in which to carry its young

nocturnal- active at night

omnivore- an animal that eats both animal and plant substances

predator- an animal that lives by preying upon other animals

prey- any creature that is hunted for food

Children Zoo Animals

Because the animals at eh Zoo are living creatures with very special needs, at certain times some of the animals referred to in this scavenger hunt may not be on public display. Please remind your students to do their best to complete the hunt by carefully observing the animals they find.

Echidna (E-kid-na)- Echidnas are one of the two egg-laying mammals. It is not a porcupine but has long spines for protection from predators. When disturbed, the echidna curls up into a spiky ball or if it is bothered on top of soft soil, it may rapidly dig straight down until all that can be seen are the spines of its well-protected back. The echidna can be found in all types of terrain in Australia from semi-arid to mountainous. Their long, sticky tongue allows them to catch ants and termites for food.

Fennec Fox- These are the smallest members of the fox family. This fox has long ears and a light-colored coat. It can be found in the deserts of northern Africa, Sinai and Arabia. Its diet includes plant material, small rodents, birds and their eggs, lizards, and insects.

Matschie's Tree Kangaroo- Yes, you read this right! There is a kangaroo that lives in the trees of Papua New Guinea. The kangaroo can weigh up to 28 pounds and is 24 inches long with a tail as long as its body. It is chestnut in color with blond highlights on its ears, face, and feet. The kangaroo has very strong forearms and short legs. This kangaroo has very sharp claws to help it climb through the forest. It eats only leaves (plant material) so it can be called an herbivore. Unfortunately, it is an endangered species due to habitat loss and poaching. You may find it sleeping high in a perch in the exhibit because it is crepuscular.

Meerkat- Meerkats are part of the mongoose family. They live in colonies in abandoned termite mounds in semi-desert areas or savannas of Africa and South Asia. Commonly, they can be seen standing on their back feet scanning for predators. Most are opportunistic (eat what they can find) eaters. They feed on small vertebrates, insects and occasionally fruit.

Naked Mole Rat- These are the only mammals known to live in a colony structure similar to that of social insects (i.e. bees). They live in underground burrows and are virtually blind.

Colonies may contain up to 80 individuals but only a single pair breed. The others are considered the “workers,” who clean the tunnels and find food. They eat mainly roots.

(North American) River Otter- These mammals live amphibious lives, dividing their time between land and water. As members of the weasel family, they have elongated bodies, water repellent fur, short limbs and webbed paws. They have long, sensitive whiskers to feel water turbulence and search for prey. They eat frogs, crayfish, crabs, and fish.

Scavenger Hunt

THE CHILDREN'S ZOO

Teacher's Guide

AS YOU ENTER THE CHILDREN'S ZOO, KEEP TO THE RIGHT AND ENTER THE BUILDING.

1. In the center of the large room there are some enclosures where you can touch some animals. Circle the animals that you see in these pens.



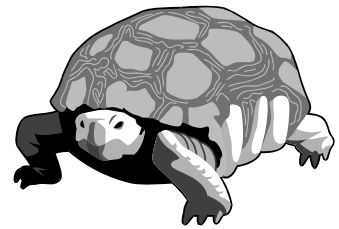
A.



B.



C.

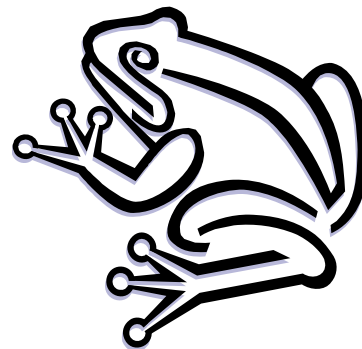


D.

2. Look carefully at the naked mole rats. The “workers” and “soldiers” work together for the queen. She is the biggest mole rat. Can you find the queen? How did you know it was she?

3. Look for the frog exhibit. Have an adult read the sign about frogs.

On the frog at the right, show what colors you'd like to have if you were a frog. Why did you pick the colors you did?



4. Find the fennec foxes. Their fur is the same color as sand. Where do you think they might live? (Hint: Where would they blend in the best? Why is it important for them to blend in?)

- a. In the forest
- b. In the mountains
- c. In the desert
- d. In the ocean

5. Find an animal close by the fennec exhibit that lives in the same habitat as the fennec. What is it? (Hint: Look for termite mounds.)

Meerkats are not cats. Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast a Meerkat to a house cat. (They could also compare the sand cat to the meerkats or house cat.)

6. Find the animal that looks something like a porcupine. This is the ECHIDNA (E-kid-na), or spiny anteater. The young echidna lives in its mother's pouch from the time it hatches until it gets its spines. Why do you think it leaves at that time? (Hint: Think pain!)

EXIT THE BUILDING AND TAKE THE PATH TOWARD THE PLAY AREA. STOP AT THE OTTERS.

7. Look at an otter's body. How does it enable him to swim so well? List the body parts the otters use to swim.

*At the play area, pretend you are a monkey who needs to cross the Crocodile River. Demonstrate how you would accomplish this without being eaten. Also, watch out for the snake! How could you avoid being bitten?

*Look for the Mountain Trail to the slide. How do the red rocks help you climb up the hill?

FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE GOAT YARD.

8. Go into the goat yard and observe the goats. Pay close attention to the goats that are climbing on the rocks. African Pygmy Goats are very good climbers because of their hooves. In the wild this helps them climb to get to leaves in a tree. What enables the goats to climb the rocks? (See Worksheet)

9. African Pygmy Goats are very good climbers. How do you think this would help them survive in the wild? (See Worksheet) Hint: Think about food and avoiding predators.

STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES

(Copy the following pages for each student before arriving at the zoo)

NAME _____

Scavenger Hunt

The Children's Zoo

STUDENT ACTIVITY PAGES

1.



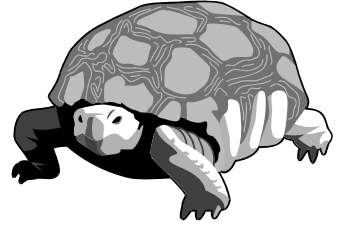
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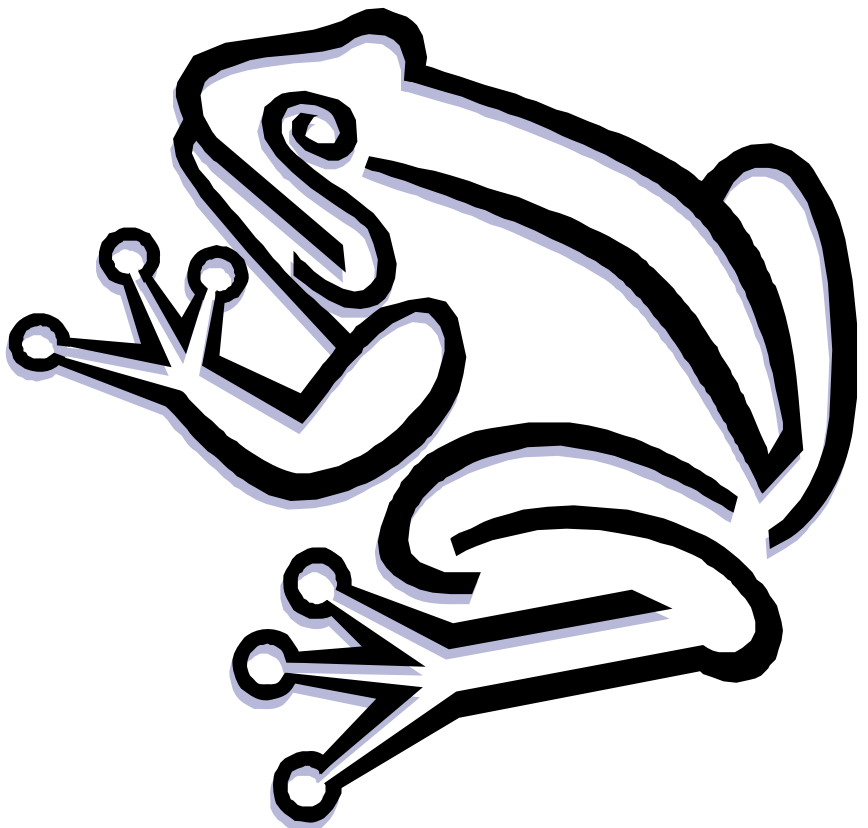
C.



D.

2. Look carefully at the naked mole rats. The “workers” and “soldiers” work together for the queen. She is the biggest mole rat. Can you find the queen? How did you know it was she?

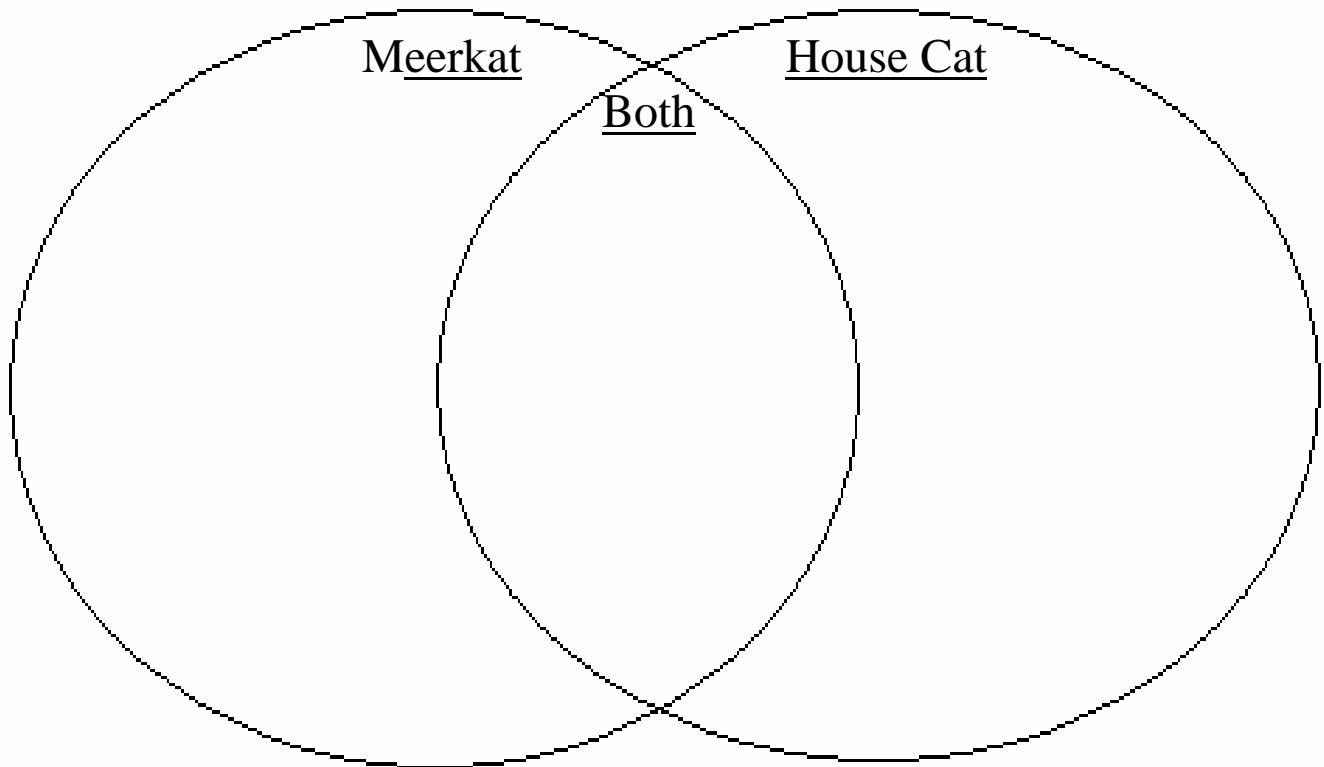
3. On the frog at the right, show what colors you'd like to have if you were a frog. Why did you pick these colors?



4. Find the fennec foxes. Their fur is the same color as sand. Where do you think they might live?

- a. In the forest
- b. In the mountains
- c. In the desert
- d. In the ocean

5. Meerkats are not cats. Use the Venn diagram to compare and contrast a meerkat to a house cat. (Hint: In the Both circle, write what they have in common.)



7. Look at the otter's body. How does it enable him to swim so well? List the body parts the otter uses to swim.

9. Look at the goats climbing the rocks. What enables the goats to climb so well?

10. How do you think the goat's ability to climb would help it survive in the wild?