

# MISSOURI WILDLIFE

Scavenger Hunt  
GRADES 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>



**Saint Louis Zoo**  
Animals Always®

# Scavenger Hunt

## MISSOURI WILDLIFE 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

### ***Teacher's Guide***

Updated: 2008

APPROXIMATE TIME: 90 Minutes

#### **Suggestions for teachers:**

1. Allow your students about 60- 90 minutes for this scavenger hunt. The activities begin at The Living World and take you to different areas of the Saint Louis Zoo. Remember, during the colder months there will not be as many animals on display outdoors and there may be fewer birds populating The Bird Garden due to migration.
2. It will be helpful during the scavenger hunt to divide your class into small groups of five or fewer students supervised by an adult. This scavenger hunt is intended to be a cooperative effort of the group. Consequently, it might be wise for the group to decide before beginning the scavenger hunt on which roles individual students will have. For example, all students might complete individual scavenger hunts along the way, or one student might record answers for the group with the understanding that the group will meet for discussion and completion of the individual scavenger hunt packet after visiting each designated area of the Zoo.
3. Because the animals at the 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 and not to worry about any that are off display.

#### **Suggested Pre-Visit Activities**

1. Review these pages with your students so they will have some idea of what they will be doing at the Zoo. Have adult guides familiarize themselves with the information.
2. Help students list wildlife that might be found around your school or their homes.

#### **Library Resources:**

-Check out our library resources at <http://www.stlzoo.org>.

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#### ***Answer Key***

Because the animals at the 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 student to do their best to complete the hunt by carefully observing the animals they find and not to worry about any that are off display.** We update our scavenger hunts on an annual basis during the summer months to be able to provide you with the most accurate information about our animals.

1. Chief Seattle
2. Respecting the Earth and Its Water Ways
3. False.
4. d
5. Bar graph will vary depending on species selected
6. Places where animals stop and rest during migration
7. Safe place to lay eggs and raise young
8. destroy / create
9. Cut down trees and dam up streams
10. Hellbender Salamander
11. Massasagua Rattlesnake; Timber Rattlesnake and Copperhead; Cottonmouth; Pygmy Western Rattlesnake
12. b
13. swamp
14. long legs, long neck, long beak
15. 2.5 million acres
16. filters pollution
17. holds onto water
18. The black bear can be found in Missouri.
19. The black bear's diet includes bulbs, berries, nuts, fish and small mammals.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Scavenger Hunt

# MISSOURI WILDLIFE 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE

## ***Student's Activity Pages***

Wildlife is one of Missouri's most valuable natural resources. We can help conserve and protect Missouri's plant and animal life for the future by learning more about it today.

The study of living things and their surroundings is called **ecology**. Plant and animal species' survival depends on a complicated natural system that provides food, air, water, soil, and sunlight. The delicate balance of these essentials, however, can be easily disrupted by human or other interference. Many conservation and environmental organizations support efforts to protect wildlife and natural habitat. People like you can help.

Learning about, and caring enough to help provide some of the life requirements of plants and animals are the first step. Collecting information for organized groups by counting, weighing, measuring, and reporting is another step. All of this data is valuable to ecologists who can then use the information in computer programs that work out possible effects of changes either taking place or being planned in specific locations. Studies of ecosystems around the world can help to show a complete picture of our biosphere.

At the Zoo you will see many examples of Missouri plant and animal life on the ground, in the air, in the water, and in the trees. Some of the names and pictures of these Missouri mammals, birds, fish, insects, plants, and trees are listed on the last page of this scavenger hunt, so, when you see one, put a check by the name or picture.

**START YOUR HUNT AT: THE RIVER'S EDGE EXIT  
WATERFALL.**

***The Missouri part of the exhibit is located here. Before you enter, read the statement by Ted Perry under the waterfall.***

1. Who was the Native American Chief that inspired the writing?

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2. What is the message of the quotation from the Native American Chief?

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***As you enter you will find yourself in a replica of a Missouri cave complete with stalactites hanging from the ceiling and stalagmites building from the floor and you will see an aquarium ecosystem representing the Mississippi River (the world's largest river system).***

3. Circle the correct answer. There are more fish in the Mississippi River today than in the past.

True                  False

4. Which of the following resulted in damage to the Mississippi River's ecological balance?

- a. Modified (changed) flow of the river
- b. Drained wetlands
- c. Water pollution
- d. All of the above

5. As you observe the variety of life in the Mississippi River, make a tally of the first 5 species you see by placing a tally mark next to its name. Then, make a bar graph showing your results. (Next page)

<b><i>Species</i></b>	<b><i>Tally</i></b>
<b>Paddlefish</b>	
<b>Soft-shell Turtle</b>	
<b>Goldeneye Herring</b>	
<b>Red-eared Slider</b>	
<b>American Eel</b>	
<b>Flathead Catfish</b>	
<b>Blue Catfish</b>	
<b>Bigmouth Buffalo Fish</b>	
<b>Bluegill Perch</b>	
<b>Largemouth Bass</b>	
<b>Shad</b>	
<b>Black Crappie</b>	
<b>Black Buffalo</b>	

## Life in the Mississippi River Bar Graph

Number of Animals



Name of Animals

***Move through the cave and head to your right. This area represents Missouri Wetlands. Read the signage on wetlands and beavers.***

### THE MISSOURI WETLANDS

6. How does a wetland serve as a MOTEL?

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7. How does a wetland serve as a CRADLE?

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8. Supply the missing word. (***create*** or ***destroy***)

*Although humans often \_\_\_\_\_ wetlands to fit their needs, beavers \_\_\_\_\_ wetlands .*

9. List two things beavers do to change a stream ecosystem to a pond or wetland ecosystem.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

***You will continue the scavenger hunt at the Herpetarium. Exit the River's Edge back through the cave and take the path between the Lake and Sea Lion statues at the South Gate. Check your map and proceed toward Historic Hill until you reach the Herpetarium. Enter the main entrance of the building and make a left. Along the back wall of the left side of the building are amphibians and reptiles of Missouri.***

## HERPETARIUM

10. Which species of amphibian is the largest salamander in Missouri?

\_\_\_\_\_

11. The five species of venomous snakes in Missouri are on display. Find the names of the five snakes and match them to their habitat.

### HABITAT

### SNAKE

Plains of Missouri

\_\_\_\_\_

Ozark Border

\_\_\_\_\_

Cypress Swamp

\_\_\_\_\_

Ozark Plateau

\_\_\_\_\_

***Your next stop of the Missouri Wildlife scavenger hunt will be The Bird Garden. Using your Zoo map, cross to the opposite side of Historic Hill and walk to the top of the Hill. Enter the Bird Garden from the right of the Bird House. You will see The Bird Garden.***

## BIRD GARDEN

12. Why do birds migrate to the Midwest region in summer?

- a. They want to get an early start on winter migration.
- b. They migrate for the wide variety of insects to feed on.
- c. They came to thrive in the wetland areas.
- a. None of the above.

***Follow the trail through the Bird Garden. Exit the garden and go left on the trail. Pass the Kudu yards on your right and make a sharp left to the Bird Cage. The Bird Cage is an example of a wetland biome in Missouri. All the species inside can be found in Missouri.***

## BIRD CAGE

13. What type of wetland biome is represented inside the Bird Cage?

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14. Observe the different species of birds on display. Many of them catch fish for their food. List two different things about their bodies that would aid in catching fish.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_

15. How many acres of Missouri were once swamps?

- a. 1000 acres
- b. 100,000 acres
- c. 800,000 acres
- d. 2.5 million acres

16. How does a swamp act as a strainer for the environment?

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17. How does a swamp act as a sponge for the environment?

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***Your final stop of the scavenger hunt will be the Bear Pits. Exit through the Bird Cage and walk past Fragile Forest and Conservation Carousel. Check your Zoo map and proceed to your final stop of the Missouri Wildlife Scavenger Hunt.***

## BEAR PITS

**18.** After observing the bears and reading the posted informational signs, which bear do you think is found in Missouri?

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**19.** What does the diet of this bear include?

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***You have completed the Missouri Wildlife scavenger hunt.***