Saint Louis Zoo Eyes and Ears at the Zoo SLPS - 2nd Grade Teacher/Chaperone Guide

Your adventure will begin as you exit The Living World onto Zoo grounds. Turn left and make an immediate right going over the train tracks. Head to Sea Lion Sound. All **bolded print in this scavenger hunt highlights questions or comments to share with students.**

- **1.** When you get to Sea Lion Sound, locate and enter the entrance to the Viewing Tunnel.
- 2. Proceed inside. Watch for the Harbor Seal and the California Sea Lions. How are these animals moving? (Swimming.) Seals and sea lions swim very well. What parts of their bodies make them such good swimmers? (Fins in the front and back, body shaped like a torpedo) Using the pictures in your scavenger hunt and observing closely, let's learn how to tell if we are looking at a seal or sea lion. One way to do this is by looking at their ears. Are their ears the same or different? (different) How are their ears different? (Sea Lions have ear flaps and Seals have ear holes...or no flaps.) Now, watch the animals again and say if it is a Seal or Sea Lion. (Most likely you will see sea lions. Only 1 seal lives in Sea Lion Sound.)



Now, you will look at the size of sea lions. Let's look at the size of the sea lions and learn what that can tell us. (Male sea lions are larger than female sea lions) Watch for large male sea lions. Watch for small female sea lions. If you notice smaller large sea lions they are most likely younger male sea lions. (Male sea lions, called bulls, can grow to be 6-8 feet long and weigh 500-800lbs. Females can grow to be 5-6.5 feet long and weigh 150-225 lbs.) If you see very small female sea lions they are younger female sea lions.

Exit the Viewing Tunnel and stop at the Viewing Window for another look at the animals. Exit the Viewing Window and follow the path just to the left of the Viewing Tunnel entrance. It will take you to the top of Sea Lion Sound. Look for sea lions. Can you tell if it is a male or female? Our harbor seal can often be



found swimming in the pool area to the left of the cave. Watch for several minutes. If you see her, she will come up for a breath shortly and you can see that her ears have no flaps.

3. We will now head to Cypress Swamp. When you exit Sea Lion Sound you should be across from or near the prairie dogs. Take the path heading down hill to the left, past the prairie dogs. Follow the path around to the right past the Red Panda and Fragile Forest. Keeping the train on your left and Fragile Forest on your right, go straight until you see the Cypress Swamp. Cross the train tracks and enter the Flight Cage.

Be very still and listen for the swamp noises. As you listen, look at the different birds <u>in the water</u>, <u>on the ground</u> and <u>in the trees</u>. **How many different birds can you spot? What kinds of things are they doing?**

Find a bird that's being still and draw its picture in your scavenger hunt. Can you find its name and add that to your picture?

Look carefully at the beaks of the birds. (Be sure to look at the birds in the trees.) What can you say about these beaks? (There are duck bills, long slender beaks, and even spoonbills. The birds with flat beaks use them to move material under the surface of the water to find insects and the tender parts of plants to eat. The birds with long, pointed beaks use them to spear fish and small animals like frogs.)

4. Exit the Cypress Swamp and walk up the hill toward Red Rocks. On the right, look at the Bongo. Notice its stripes. In your scavenger hunt, add stripes to the picture of the Bongo. Watch the Bongo's ears. Are they still or do they move? (The Bongo's ears are quite large and they move independently of one another. Because of that they are able to hear in more than one direction at the same time.) Keeping the Bongo on your right, walk ahead and around to the top of Red Rocks until you see the Okapi habitat on your left.



Bongo



Okapi



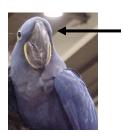
After you have carefully observed the Okapi, draw the stripe pattern on the picture in your scavenger hunt. How are the patterns different? (The Bongo's stripes run up and down over its body, but not on its legs; the Okapi's stripes are only on its legs. Both animals live in the forest and their stripes and dark coloration provide camouflage.)

5. Now we will go to the Bird House. Turn left when the path splits and stay to the left past the Takin. At the top of the hill, just past the sculpture, go right towards the Bird Garden and enter the Bird House on your left.

Not long after you enter the Bird House, you will see the Hyacinth Macaw on the left. It's the largest of the flying parrots. **What do you notice about its eyes?** (They are on the sides of the bird's head which means it cannot see straight ahead.)

Put your hands together and put them right in the center of you face with your thumbs laying along either side of your nose.
Close your left eye. Can you see what's on your left side with your right eye?
(No, your hands are in the way. The only way you can see what's on the other side is to turn your head. That's how the Macaw sees.)





In your scavenger hunt, find the picture of the Hyacinth Macaw. Draw an arrow to where its other eye should be. (See above)

- **6.** Continue walking to the right until you come to the **Burrowing Owls**. As you walk **quietly** around the Bird House, listen carefully to the sounds the birds are making. If you move very slowly and quietly, you can actually come up to a cage while the bird is making the sound, but you have to sneak.
- 7. At the Burrowing Owl exhibit, look for the owls. Where are they? (Owls may be on a cactus or on the ground) Burrowing owls do not live in trees. If they do not live in a tree, where do they build their nest? Look for their nest. (on the ground to the far right side of the exhibit you will find a hole. It leads to their burrow underground.) In your booklet circle where the Burrowing owl builds its' nest. (Underground. Burrowing owls can dig their own burrows but often use one dug by a prairie dog, skunk, armadillo, or tortoise.)
- **8.** When you get to the front door, exit. Go straight down the hill, crossing the bridge and continuing up the hill to the Primate House. Enter the Primate House and stay to the left.



Find the Coquerel's Sifaka. These animals love to leap and swing. Can you see their hands? How are they different from yours? (Their fingers are long and slender and their thumbs are smaller, compared to ours. This allows them to hold and swing. But their favorite way to move is to leap, using the strong muscles in their back legs.) How far can you leap?

Find the Cottontop Tamarin. How do you think it got its name? (It got its name because of the fluffy white hair on its head.)

Exit the Primate House, heading back the way you came. When you get to the hill in front of the Bird House, turn left and head down the hill towards The Living World. If you choose to go to the Insectarium turn left as you approach the building and keep going until you get to the big beetle.

Extension Activity - Monsanto Insectarium

Before you enter the Insectarium, stop and allow the students to observe the model of the large beetle located in front of the building. Encourage the students to observe the model and tell some of the characteristics they see. (Six legs, three body parts, two antennae).

Insects are masters of disguise and can hide easily. Enter the Insectarium and find the walking sticks. Have the students try to count the number of sticks they see. Expect students to give different answers. Ask why some of the walking sticks are hard to find? How could looking like a "stick" help these insects?

Follow the path and look for the phones. Insects do not talk like we do, but they do communicate. Have the students pick up the phone receivers and listen to the sounds insects can make. Ask the students to try to demonstrate the sounds they heard. Next, discuss ways we can communicate without using words. Allow the students a chance to respond. (Examples: wave, snap finger, wink, raise eyebrows, etc...).

Enter the Mary Ann Lee Butterfly Wing. Please instruct the students to take special care while visiting the butterfly exhibit. Please discourage children from trying to chase or catch the butterflies. It is also necessary to watch where you step; they may land on the pathway. Using the I.D. card, try to identify three different species. After leaving the Butterfly Wing, have the students draw a picture of their favorite butterfly.

Back at school, using a Venn diagram, have the students compare the beetle model and a butterfly, or two insects they saw while visiting the Insectarium.

