Missouri Wildlife

Scavenger Hunt

GRADES 4-8

Saint Louis Zoo

Animals Always®

Scavenger Hunt

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Teacher's Guide

Updated: Summer 2013
APPROXIMATE TIME: 90 Minutes

Suggestions for Teachers:

1. Allow your students 90 minutes for this scavenger hunt. The questions on this hunt cover 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 smaller groups 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, 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.
4. Copies of the Saint Louis Zoo map are available and can be used to help direct the students to the various areas while completing the scavenger hunt.

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 the students make a list of any 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

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1. Chief Seattle
2. Respecting the Earth and Its Water Ways
3. False
4. d. all of the above
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. Ozark Hellbender
11. Massasagua Rattlesnake, Timber Rattlesnake, Copperhead, Western Cottonmouth, Western Pygmy Rattlesnake
12. b. They migrate for the wide variety of insects to feed on
13. swamp
14. Long legs, long neck, long beak
15. d. 2.5 million acres
16. Filters pollution
17. Holds onto water

Name _____

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Student's Activity Pages

Wildlife is one of Missouri's most valuable natural resources. We can help conserve and protect Missouri's plants and animals for the future by learning more about them 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 steps. 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.

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

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?

_____

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

_____

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. You will also 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

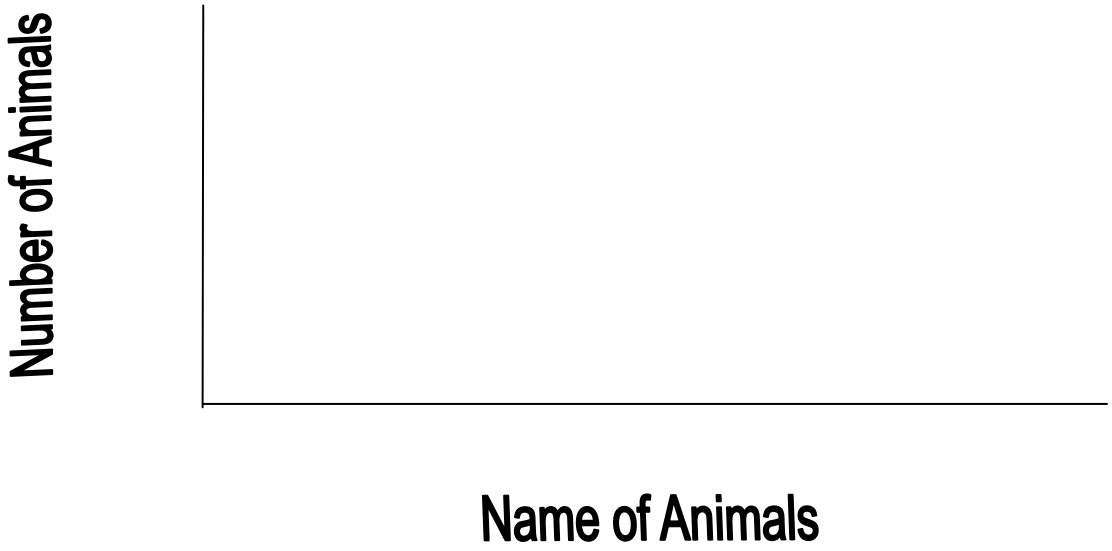
4. Which of the following resulted in damage to the Mississippi River's ecological balance?

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)

Species	***Tally***
Red-eared Slider	
Soft-shell Turtle	
Pallid Sturgeon	
Bighead Carp	
Channel Catfish	
Flathead Catfish	
Buffalo Sucker	
Bigmouth Sucker	
Smallmouth Bass	
Largemouth Bass	
Longnose Gar	
Shortnose Gar	
Spotted Gar	

Life in the Mississippi River Bar Graph



Move through the cave and turn to your right. This area represents Missouri Wetlands. Read the signs on wetlands and beavers.

THE MISSOURI WETLANDS

6. How does a wetland serve as a MOTEL?

_____

7. How does a wetland serve as a CRADLE?

_____

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 follow the Hippo Tracks to the entrance. Rather than enter River's Edge, go left across the railroad tracks and follow the path in front of the Sea Lion statues at the South Gate. Check your map and proceed toward Historic Hill, until you reach the Herpetarium on your right. 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. (Hint: Some habitats are going to have more than one kind of snake. You may need to look at more than one exhibit to find all the snakes that live in some of the habitats.)

HABITAT	SNAKE
Plains of Missouri	_____
Along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers (Hint: Look in 2 different places for this)	_____
Cypress Swamp	_____
Ozark Plateau	_____

Your next stop will be The Bird Garden. Using your Zoo map, exit the Herpetarium and 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 abundance of resources like food.
c. They migrate to get away from predators.
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 1904 Flight Cage. The Flight Cage is an example of a wetland biome in Missouri. All the species inside can be found in Missouri.

1904 FLIGHT CAGE

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

_____

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?

_____

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

_____

You have completed the Missouri Wildlife Scavenger Hunt.