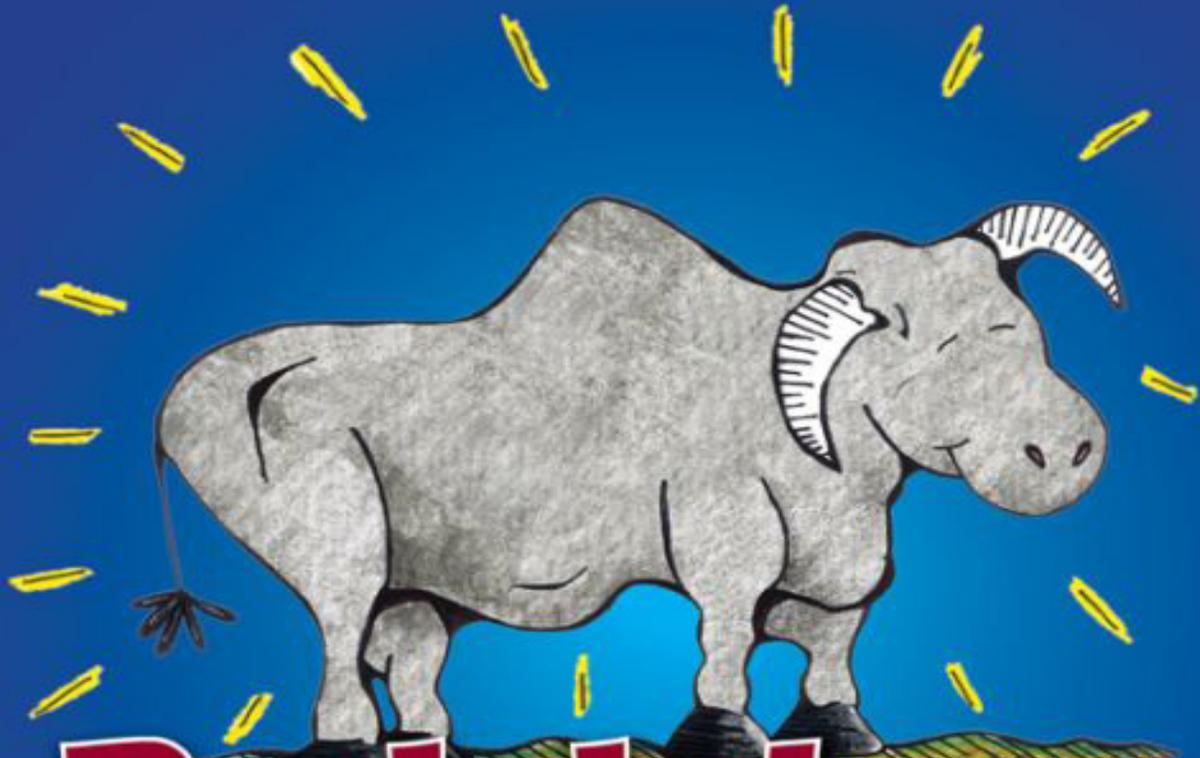


# Bubbles and Friends

Scavenger Hunt  
GRADES K-3rd



## Bubbles the dwarf zebu

A Story About Finding a Home at the Saint Louis Zoo

Written and illustrated by Carolyn Mueller



Saint Louis Zoo  
Animals Always®

# Scavenger Hunt

## Bubbles and Friends - The Children's Zoo (K-3)

Teacher's Guide

Updated Spring 2013

**Approximate Time: 60 Minutes**

### **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. 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 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday through Sunday (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) 646-4709.
3. In the warmer months, the Children's Zoo can be very crowded, so allow extra time to complete your scavenger hunt.

### **Pre-visit activities:**

1. Read "Bubbles the Dwarf Zebu: A Story about Finding a Home at the Saint Louis Zoo" to your students.
2. Locate India on a map. Ask what continent India is on. Tell them that in India cows are considered sacred, which means that they are holy. Are there any animals that we think very highly of here? (Example answer – Bald Eagle is our national symbol.) Have a discussion of why these animals are important to us.

### **Post-visit activities:**

1. Continue walking through the Children's Zoo and see the rest of the animals in the Children's Zoo.
2. Use the following thought-provokers for journal writing or group discussions:
  - Something I saw Bubbles do at the Zoo....
  - Something I heard while at the Children's Zoo....
  - Something I smelled while at the Children's Zoo ....
  - Something I touched while at the Children's Zoo....
  - Something I learned while at the Children's Zoo....

# Background Information

## Children's Zoo Animals

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.

### Pygmy Goats

Pygmy goats are a small breed of domestic goat. Our pygmy goats are African pygmy goats originating from Africa. They are typically bred as both meat and milk producers. Pygmy goats have “suction cup” like hooves that make them excellent climbers.

### Alpaca

An alpaca is a domesticated camelid from South America. They are the smaller cousins of the llama. Alpacas live in herds high up in the Andes Mountains where they are kept quite warm by their wool coats. Alpaca wool can be used to knit clothing. And they do spit!

### Domestic Sheep

Our domestic sheep originated from species bred in England. Domestic sheep are raised for both meat and wool production. Sheep are herbivorous animals that spend quite a lot of their time grazing on grass. Sheep are flock animals and much of their behavior is based on herd dynamics.

### Vietnamese Pot-bellied Pigs

The pot-bellied pigs are a breed of domesticated pig originating from Vietnam. Pot-bellied pigs are much smaller than American or European farm pigs. They use their snouts to root around in the dirt looking for leaves, roots and grasses to eat. Pigs enjoy the companionship of one another and often nestle together to sleep or stay warm. You will see our pigs laying in their yard, enjoying the sun!

### Crow

The American crow is commonly found throughout North America. Crows are entirely black and will feed on almost anything—invertebrates, carrion, scraps of human food, seeds, eggs, fish or grains. Crows are extremely intelligent animals and have even been observed using tools in the wild. They can also mimic the sounds made by other animals. Our crow has a very unique repertoire of noises she has developed through mimicry.

### Great Horned Owl

The great horned owl is one of the most widely distributed owls in North America. It is one of the largest owl species and adults have very distinct ear tufts, which is why they are called “horned” owls. The tufts are neither horns nor ears, but, simply, tufts of feathers. This owl is very well camouflaged due to its tree-like feather pattern. Its abilities to hear well, fly silently, see clearly in darkness and grab prey with its strong talons are just a few adaptations that make the great horned owl an impressive hunter.

### (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.

## **Burros**

Burros are small donkeys primarily found in Latin America. Donkeys are pack animals that can carry heavy loads. Donkeys have been domesticated and used as working animals for 5,000 years! Donkeys and burros have a reputation for stubbornness, which is linked to their strong instincts as a prey animal. It is hard to force a donkey to do anything that it doesn't want to do! They are quite intelligent, playful and eager to learn. Our donkeys like to chase the chickens around their yard!

## **Dwarf Zebu**

A dwarf zebu is a type of cattle originating from the zebu cattle of India. Zebu are one of the oldest known breeds of cattle. They are easily recognized by their silvery grey coats, the distinctive humps on their withers and the flaps on their necks (known as dewlaps). If food and water are limited, a dwarf zebu can live off of the fat and muscle stored in the hump. Dwarf zebu like warm weather. Zebu cattle are not raised for meat or milk. They make excellent draft animals and are often used to pull plows and carts in India. There are more than 200 million zebu in India. Together they provide more power than all of the Indian electric plants combined. The zebu is considered a sacred cow in India.

# Scavenger Hunt

## Bubbles and Friends (K-3)

### Adult-Leader's Guide

*As you enter the Children's Zoo, keep to the left and enter the goat yard.*

1. Bubbles' best friend, Xavier, is a goat! What made Xavier special in the story? (Answer: his hooves, which help him climb). How many goats do you see using their hooves to climb? (Count the goats write the number on the line)

*After exiting the goat yard, follow the path to the right. Pass the Children's Zoo building and walk across from the stage. Look for the bird feeder.*

2. Bubbles and Xavier like to eat grain and hay, but lots of animals enjoy seeds! Draw or write which animals are eating at the bird feeder today. (Answer: birds and squirrels, maybe chipmunks or chickens).

*Proceed forward, toward the alpacas and sheep.*

3. These alpacas are Bubbles' good friends. Just like Bubbles, they enjoy their daily walks around the Zoo! Also, like Bubbles and Xavier, the alpacas have hooves. They are cousins to another animal with hooves. Circle which animal you think they are related to below. (Answer: Camel).
4. In the story, Bubbles lives next door to two wooly sheep...but now the sheep live near the alpacas! What do the sheep and alpacas have in common? (Answer: wool coats, hooves, pellet shaped poop) How are they different? (Answer: size, color, long eyelashes for alpacas)

*Go through the tunnel.*

5. What noises do you hear in the tunnel? What kind of animal makes this sound? (Answer: Bats). Bubbles is a mammal. Are bats mammals too? (Yes, they have fur and are born alive, just like Bubbles.)

*Proceed across the "bubblers" to the farmyard.*

6. Take a look at Bubbles' friends, the pot-bellied pigs. What does their nose look like? Draw it here. Why do you think that their noses are so important? (Sniffing and smelling)
7. Caw! Caw! You have found our crow! Did you know that a group of crows is called a murder? Draw a line to match the animals below with their "group name."  
(Answers: otter/romp, cattle/herd, kangaroo/mob, crow/murder, fish/school)
8. Look at the owls' feathers? What do they look like? (Answer: Tree Bark). Where do you think the owls like to make their nest?

- a. on the beach
- b. Busch Stadium

- c. in a cave
- d. in a forest

*Walk across from the farmyard to the river otters.*

9. Bubbles got her name from watching these river otters blow bubbles in their pool. Count all of the bubbles that you see. Draw a picture of the bubbles with the otters below:

*Continue across from the playground to the gray barn area.*

10. Meet the burros, Bubbles' new neighbors! Burros, just like dwarf zebus, are good pack animals. That means that they can carry lots of heavy stuff! Observe the burros grazing and playing. Write or draw what you think makes these burros so special:

11. You are almost done! You see a cow, but is it Bubbles? Check off the clues below to find out:

Does she have horns? (Yes)

Does she have a flap? (Yes)

Does she have a hump? (Yes)

Does she have a silvery, grey coat? (Yes)

Is she very, very special? (Yes)

**YOU DID IT! YOU FOUND BUBBLES! WAY TO GO!**

**Student Activity Pages**

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# Scavenger Hunt

## Bubbles and Friends (K-3)

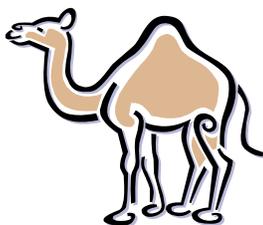
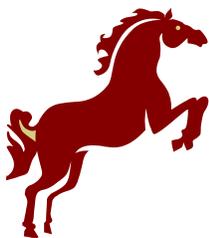
### Student Activity Pages

1. Bubbles' best friend, Xavier, is a goat! What made Xavier special in the story? How many goats do you see using their hooves to climb?

\_\_\_\_\_ goats are climbing.

2. Bubbles and Xavier like to eat grain and hay, but lots of animals enjoy seeds! Draw or write the kinds of animals are eating at the bird feeder today?

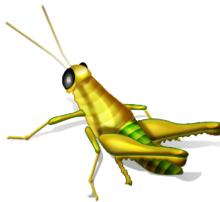
3. These alpacas are Bubbles' good friends. Just like Bubbles, they enjoy their daily walks around the Zoo! Also, like Bubbles and Xavier, the alpacas have hooves. They are cousins to another animal with hooves. Circle which animal you think they are related to below.



4. In the story, Bubbles lives next door to two woolly sheep...but now the sheep live right here next to the alpacas! What do the sheep and alpacas have in common? Write or draw how they are the same or different?

Same	Different

5. What noises do you hear in the tunnel? Circle what kind of animal makes this sound?



Bubbles is a mammal. Are bats mammals too? Circle your answer.

Yes

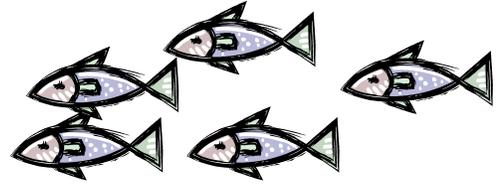
No

6. Take a look at Bubbles' friends, the pot-bellied pigs. What does their nose look like? Draw it in the box below. Tell the adult with you why you think that their noses are so important.

7. Caw! Caw! You have found our crow! Did you know that a group of crows is called a murder? Draw a line to match the animals below with their “group name.”



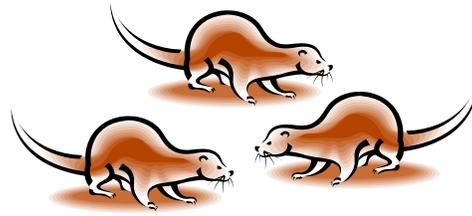
Otter



School



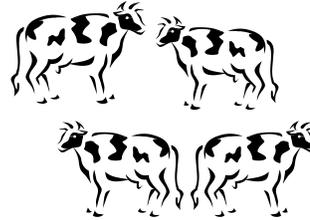
Cow



Romp



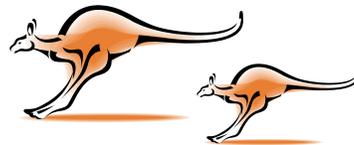
Kangaroo



Herd



Fish



Mob

8. Look at the owls' feathers? Tell the adult with you what you think the feathers look like? Circle where you think the owls like to make their nest?

a.



c.



b.



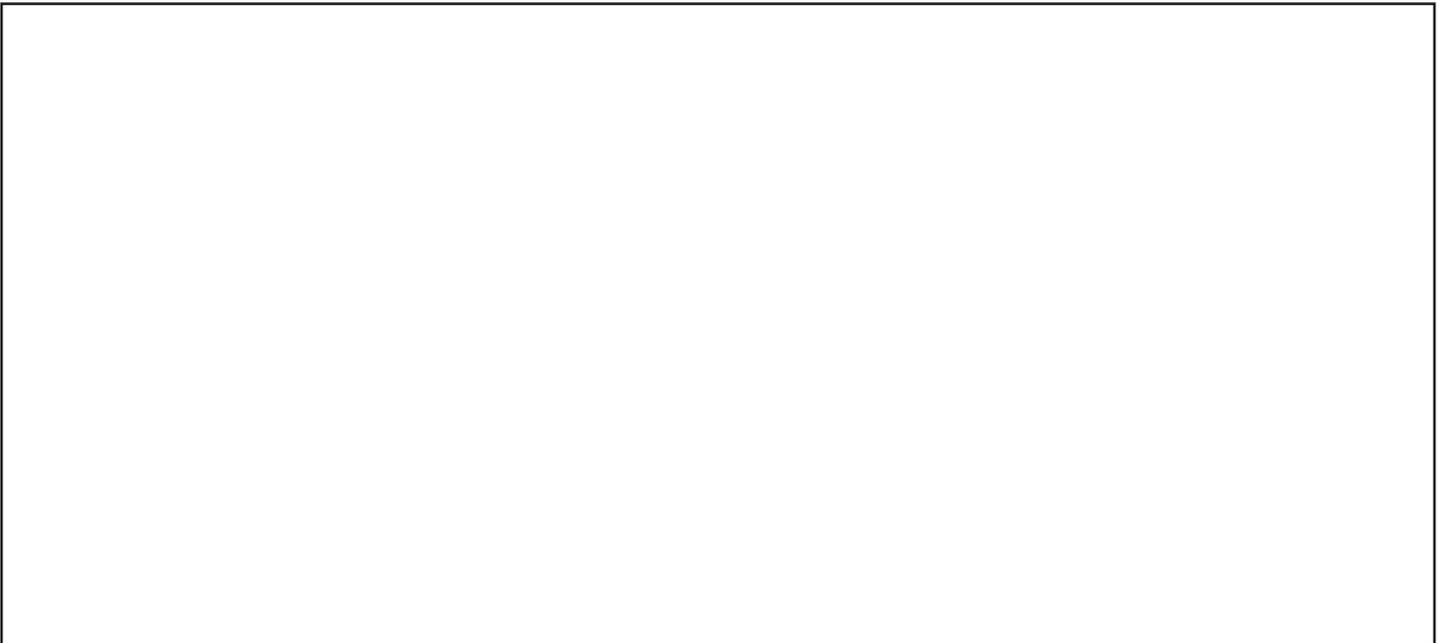
d.



9. Bubbles got her name from watching these river otters blow bubbles in their pool. Count all of the bubbles that you see. Draw a picture of the bubbles with the otters below:



10. Meet the burros, Bubbles' new neighbors! Burros, just like dwarf zebus, are good pack animals. That means that they can carry lots of heavy stuff! Observe the burros grazing and playing. Write or draw what you think makes these burros so special:



11. You are almost done! You see a cow, but is it Bubbles? Circle the answer to the clues below to find out:

- |                                     |     |    |    |
|-------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Does she have horns?                | Yes | or | No |
| Does she have a flap?               | Yes | or | No |
| Does she have a hump?               | Yes | or | No |
| Does she have a silvery, grey coat? | Yes | or | No |
| Is she very, very special?          | Yes | or | No |

**YOU DID IT! YOU FOUND BUBBLES! WAY TO GO!**

**Draw a picture of Bubbles below:**

