

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 (North Entrance) 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 the viewing window.

Watch for the **Harbor Seals** 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?** (*Flippers 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. (*If no seals or sea lions are at the window complete this activity in the viewing tunnel.*)



2. Locate the entrance to the viewing tunnel. Proceed inside.

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 (*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.*)

Exit the Viewing Tunnel 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? Keep an eye out for our seals in this area, too. While our seals swim around the entire pool, they can easily be seen near the

shallow area of the pool if they are there. If you see a seal, keep an eye on it until it comes up for a breath and you can see that its 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 in the water, on the ground and in the trees. **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 **Kudu**. **Notice its stripes. In your scavenger hunt, add stripes to the picture of the Kudu. Watch the Kudus's ears. Are they still or do they move?** (*The Kudus'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 Kudu on your right, walk ahead and around to the top of Red Rocks until you see the Okapi habitat on your left.



Kudu



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 Kudu's stripes run up and down over its body, but not on its legs; the Okapi's stripes are only on its legs. Both animal's stripes and dark coloration provide camouflage. Both animals live in Africa, the Okapi in the rainforest and the Kudu in scrubland (area with big bushes or shrubs). Kudu coloration and stripes help them blend into the shrubs and grasses where the okapi's dark coat and light stripes help it blend into the shade and sun rays that peek through the thick rainforest canopy.*

- 5. Now we will go to the Bird House.** Use the Zoo map to find the Bird House on Historic Hill.
6. Once inside the building, continue walking to the left 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 habitat 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.)*

Continue to walk through the Bird House. As you get the opposite side of the center habitat (directly across from the entrance), you will see the Rhinoceros Hornbill. **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 the center of your 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 hornbill sees.)



In your scavenger hunt, find the picture of the Rhinoceros hornbill. If the animal is facing sideways, how many eyes can you see? *(Just one - see picture above)*

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 Spider Monkeys. **These animals move around using a special body part. Can you see what they are using?** *Spider monkeys use their tails as they move through their habitat and sometimes even hang by only their tail!* **What do you use to hang from branches?**

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.