



Reptile House

THIS TEACHERS' SHEET aims to let you know what is involved in your chosen activity so that you can prepare your class for the day and help them to get as much out of their visit as possible. Trips and visits away from school are expensive, but if planned carefully, a visit to the Park can provide a basis for a wide range of activities across all aspects of learning. Linking your visit to activities at school, before and afterwards, will really strengthen the learning experience for your class and will make the most of the time and money spent during your visit to Highland Wildlife Park.

PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT Teachers can visit the Park free of charge to help with lesson planning and to make sure you know the layout and facilities available at the Park. Please contact the education officer on [01540 651981](tel:01540651981) to arrange your free visit. If you require any help or more information prior to your visit also contact the Education Officer on hwpeducation@rzs.org.uk.

Remember that a visit to the Highland Wildlife Park can offer a great learning platform for many different subjects and topics such as English, Art and Current affairs—be flexible and imaginative in your approach to your visit and how you use your visit to develop the key capabilities in your class.

DURING YOUR VISIT to the park your class will have the chance to look at the variety of different animals and their enclosures within the Park. You will be able to assess the enclosures' suitability for the animal and gather ideas for your ultimate design for a particular species. We will investigate what each animal requires for a suitable enclosure. There will be the chance to ask questions as well as lots of interesting facts, stories and explanations from our Education Officers.

Things to encourage your class to think about to **HELP YOU GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VISIT.** Discuss the needs of animals and their relationship to the environment in which they live.

- Research and discuss zoos and enclosures of the past, present and future.
- Consider how animals live, e.g. some live in large groups, while some are solitary, others are nocturnal, some can climb, some jump large distances and some can swim, animals may need a lot of exercise, etc.
- Discuss the 'people' groups that need to be considered when designing an enclosure, e.g. Public & Zookeepers.
- Research the needs of groups of animals, e.g. cats, bears, monkeys, reptiles, etc. This would enable students to make better-informed decisions about the suitability of enclosures and their design.



Zoo veterinary work



Victorian Zoo

VOCABULARY - encourage children to investigate what these words mean. They will then be able to understand and take in more on the day of their visit.

Enclosures
Conservation
In-situ and ex-situ
Enrichment
5 freedoms
Stereotypical behaviour

OTHER TOPICS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

- What are people's perceptions of predators?
- What is the point of zoos?
- Zoos and conservation
- Animals at risk
- Evolution
- Animal observation and enrichment
- Polar bear evolution and adaptation
- Re-introduction
- Wildlife crime



ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM - AFTER YOUR VISIT TO THE PARK

Art and Design

- Design a 3-dimensional enclosure.
- Design a series of enclosures to show a range of habitats.
- Design a mixed species enclosure.
- Design a new Zoo.
- Produce new interpretation for an enclosure at the Highland Wildlife Park where you feel the current signage needs better information and improved presentation.
- You are the Animal Collection Manager at the Highland Wildlife Park. List improvements you would make in any areas of the Zoo.

Links

<http://www.zoolex.org/>
<http://www.biaza.org.uk/resources/library/images/Enclosuresdesign.pdf>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/space-design-at-london-zoo/665.html>
http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/news-and-events/news/articles/news_0048.html
<http://designingzoos.com/2008/07/>

ANIMAL ENRICHMENT IN ZOOS

Research and design enrichment for an animal that has been allocated by the Education Officer.

Look at:

- The requirements of enrichment
- The importance of enclosure enrichment
- The benefits of enrichment for zoo animals
- Discuss the suitability of enclosures at the Highland Wildlife Park. Include positive and negative aspects and suggest possible improvements.

The enrichment device could be brought to the Park and, with a Keeper / Education Officer, could be placed in its enclosure for you to study.

Links

<http://www.enrichment.org/>
<http://www.animalenrichment.org/>
<http://www.biaza.org.uk/public/pages/care/index.asp>
<http://www.aza.org/enrichment/>
http://wildlife.l.wildlifeinformation.org/000ADOBES/D15_SecState_Standards_Zoos.pdf



ENGLISH/ MEDIA STUDIES

Research regulated and unregulated zoos around the world and compare the different living conditions that they keep their animals in.

- Are all zoos bad?
- What makes zoos good?
- What makes zoos bad?
- How can zoos improve?

Encourage children to discuss and investigate facts before forming opinions.

Links

<http://www.youtube.com/>
<http://www.waza.org/en/site/home>
<http://www.eaza.net/Pages/European%20Association%20of%20Zoos%20and%20Aquaria.aspx>
<http://www.biaza.org.uk/>

