



RURAL SKILLS



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@rzss.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 your class will have the chance to see animals in the Park and handle bio-facts of animals that have been at risk or have been close to extinction and the reasons behind it. We will also discuss why we have zoos and the benefits that they provide. The workshop includes a guided tour of the drive through which looks at the differences between the animals (males, females, basic husbandry, enrichment and enclosure design, life cycles etc). There will also be a tour of the Back of House, to see where the animal diets are prepared, where we will discuss the diets that are provided in zoos compared to in the wild.

The students will be able to ask and discuss any question with the Animal Keepers and Education Officer that they have about working in a zoo environment and career advice.

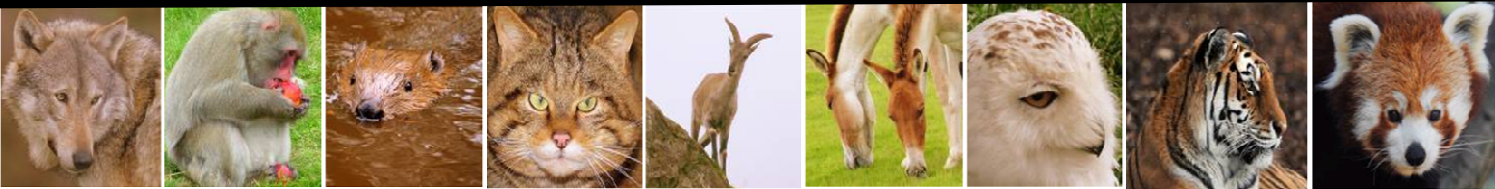
There will be the chance to gather information, interesting facts, stories and explanations from our Education Officers about the animals in the Park. There is **NO** direct contact between the animals and the students.



Feeding the Japanese macaques



Cleaning the water troughs



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.

Extinction
 Endangered
 Habitat fragmentation
 Migration
 Enrichment
 Population
 In-situ and ex-situ conservation
 Animal husbandry

OTHER TOPICS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

- What are peoples perceptions of predators?
- What is the point of zoos?
- Zoos and conservation
- Skulls teeth and diet
- Evolution
- Animal observation and enrichment
- Polar bear evolution and adaption
- Re-introduction
- Wildlife crime
- Enclosure design
- Animals at risk



Public talks

Things to encourage your class to think about to **HELP YOU GET THE MOST FROM YOUR VISIT**

- Why are animals at risk and what are the reasons for them becoming endangered?
- What endangered animals are found in Scotland, and around the world?
- What can you, your family or your school do to help endangered animals?
- Research the different careers involved in running a zoo.
- How are all the animals linked in the ecosystem? Look at food chains.
- What facilities should the zoo provide for the animals?
- What are the husbandry requirements of zoo animals?
- How do you recognise the difference between the males and females of different species?

ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM - BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR VISIT

- What can you do to help look after endangered animals?
- Create a booklet about some of the animals that interest you, explain about where they are from, the threats and dangers they face, population numbers etc.
- What is biodiversity?
- Research and investigate stories and produce some creative writing with an endangered animal theme.
- Conservation or preservation. If there is very little habitat left, is it worth conserving the animals that lived there. Is it the natural order of life extinction?
- What can we do to prevent environmental / global disaster? What are the problems? Who causes them? Can one person make a difference? Who should sort it out? Discuss these statements?

Encourage children to discuss and investigate facts before forming opinions.

Links

- <http://www.arkive.org/> <http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/> <http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/>
<http://www.iucnredlist.org/> <http://www.biaza.org.uk/> <http://www.waza.org/en/site/home>
<http://abwak.org/> <http://www.highlandwildlifepark.org/> <http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/>

Carnivore section



Hoofstock section

