



# WHAT IS THE POINT OF ZOOS



**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](mailto: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 look around the park, to see the animal talks and to ask questions. You will be able to see the animals in their enclosures, see how they behave, interact with each other and the zoo environment. There will be an opportunity to get to grips with bio-facts (skulls, skins etc) of animals in the park. Your class will have the chance to learn about the role of Zoos around the world, in the past and today. They will find out about the importance of Zoos in terms of Education, Research, Tourism and Conservation. There will be the opportunity to debate the pros and cons of Zoos and for the students to express their own opinions on the work of Zoos. Students are encouraged to ask questions, discuss and debate. The Class will also experience the work of Zoos first hand as they explore the Park and learn the conservation stories of some of the animals in our collection.

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

- Ask your class to think about Zoos before they come. What are their impressions of Zoos? Where did these impressions come from? Have they been to many Zoos, and if so where? What were the Zoos that they visited like? What would they change about Zoos?
- Why are animals in zoos? What are the threats to animals in the wild?
- What do zoos provide for the general public and the animals?
- Should we have zoos? Are zoos cruel?
- What are the differences between a zoo and a circus?



Chimps  
Tea Party

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

Enrichment  
Enclosure design  
Stereo typical behaviour  
Conservation  
Preservation  
Ethology

### OTHER TOPICS WHICH MAY BE OF INTEREST

- What are people's perceptions of predators?
- Skulls, teeth and diet
- Zoos and conservation
- Animals at risk
- Evolution
- Animal observation and enrichment
- Polar bear evolution and adaption
- Re-introduction
- Wildlife crime
- Enclosure design



Budongo Trail

### ACTIVITIES FOR THE CLASSROOM - BEFORE OR AFTER YOUR VISIT

#### Social education/ Drama/ Art

- Get the pupils to discuss what they think about zoos. Are they good or bad?
- Get the pupils to act/discuss how they believe animals should behave in a zoo.
- Get the pupils to design/draw an enclosure for an animal of their choice.
- Get them to identify what requirements the animals need/prefer to live and survive in zoos.
- Design animal interpretation (information boards)

#### Links

<http://www.zoolex.org/>

### ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

Get the pupils to look at;

- What is ethology?
- What are ethograms?
- How to study an animal's behaviour.
- Why it is important to study animal behaviour in captivity?
- How can this study be applied to animals in the wild.

#### Links

<http://www.applied-ethology.org/>

### ANIMAL ENRICHMENT

Get the pupils to look at;

- What is enrichment?
- The requirements of enrichment.
- Design enrichment.
- Produce enrichment (you may be able to bring it with you on your visit, Please speak to the Education Officer).

#### Links

<http://www.animalenrichment.org/>

<http://www.enrichment.org/>



Camel rides in zoos

### ENGLISH

Organise the pupils to have a group debate on the pros and cons of zoos.

- Should animals be made to do tricks for entertainment?
- Should 'wild' animals be tamed and used in shows?

Look and compare the Park too other zoos in the UK and world wide.

### RESOURCES

#### Links

<http://www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/>

<http://www.waza.org/en/site/home>

<http://www.biaza.org.uk/>

<http://www.iucnredlist.org/>



Animal Enrichment