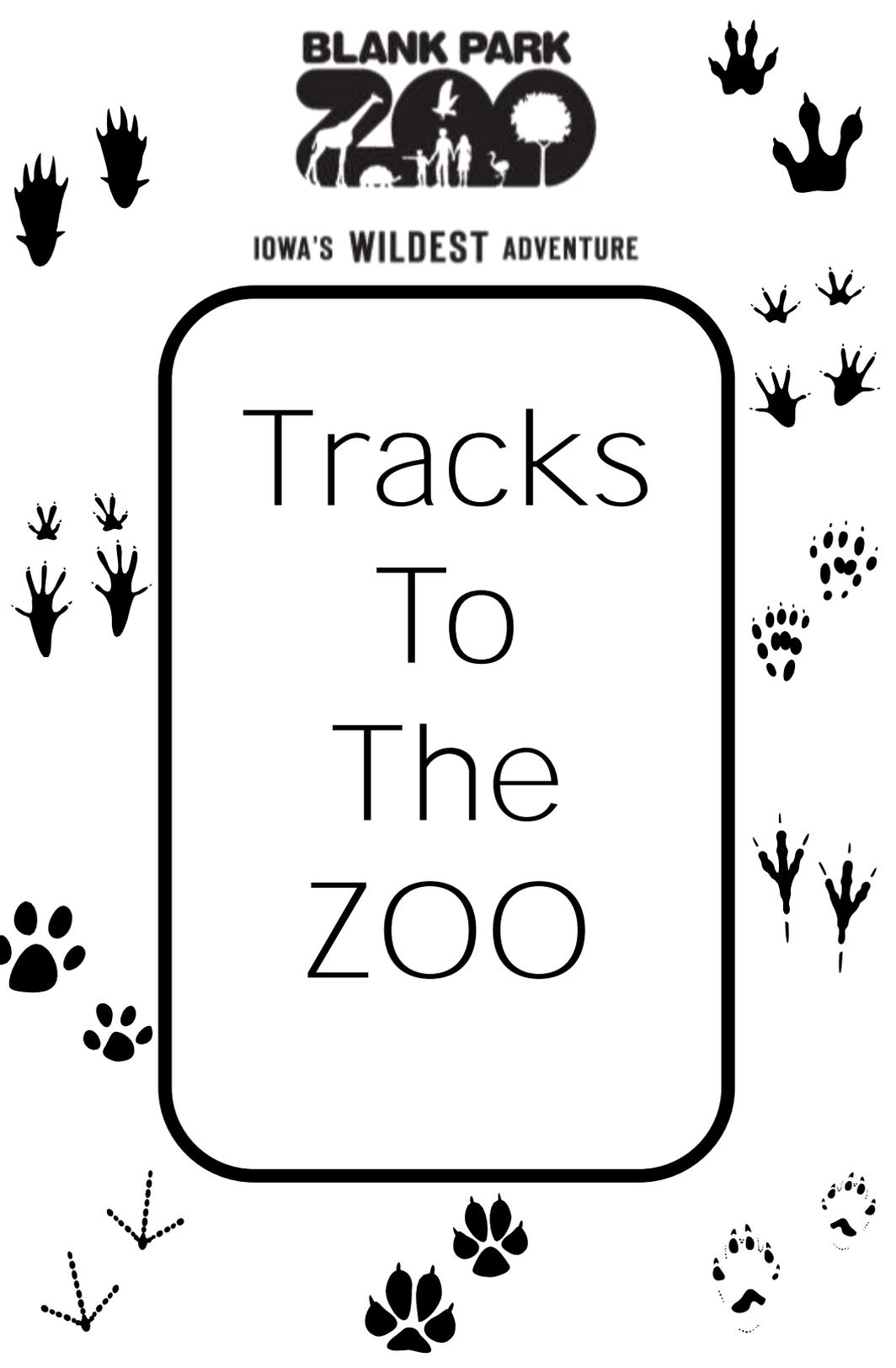




IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

Tracks To The ZOO

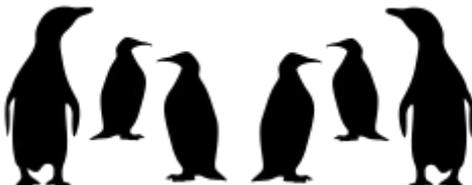


Welcome to the Blank Park Zoo

This tour guide is a collection of information about the Blank Park Zoo animals. Its purpose is to assist the teacher in planning and carrying out a successful field trip to the Zoo. Teachers can quickly acquire enough background in any one area outlined here to feel confident in presenting it to their class. Our goal is to make teachers more comfortable using the Zoo as an educational resource. For your convenience, it is arranged chronologically to coincide with the recommended order of Zoo exhibits.

To have a successful trip:

- ⇒ Please read over the guide to familiarize yourself with the animals that you will see on your trip.
- ⇒ Look over the map to familiarize yourself with the Zoo layout. Make special note of restrooms, drinking fountains, and first aid station.
- ⇒ More information is available for teachers through teacher workshops hosted by the Zoo. Please visit www.blankparkzoo.com for more information.
- ⇒ For special Animal Show & Tell Presentations, please visit www.blankparkzoo.com
- ⇒ Take this guide with you on your trip. Both the guide and the exhibit signs are excellent resources.
- ⇒ Please remember to go over the field trip rules with your students. You are responsible for their actions and behavior while they are at the Zoo. You must have an adult for every ten students.



The Animals at the Blank Park Zoo ask you to remember Character Counts!

Shinrai the Camel asks you to be *Trustworthy*. The merchandise in the gift shop, food in the vending machines and café, and admissions fees help pay for the care of the animals.



Austus the Lion asks you to be *Respectful*. Fences and guard rails are for your protection and the safety of the animals. Please **respect the animals' space and remain behind any barriers**. Various species of waterfowl nest on zoo grounds, please observe from a distance and respect their need for space.



Ansvar the Elephant asks you to be *Responsible*. Remember that many actions have consequences. Please stay on the visitor paths and walkways. Animals are often frightened when people chase them and frightened animals are easily injured. Please remain with your group at all times. Walking will prevent falls and injuries caused by running.



Guisto the Giraffe reminds you to be *Fair*. Take turns looking at the animals and wait patiently for your turn. Be fair to those standing in line, and take turns looking at the animals.



Karina the Kangaroo asks you to be *Caring*. The animals do not like students shouting, pounding on the glass, or teasing them. The best way to see the animals is to calmly observe them. It is okay to be **excited, but be considerate of the animals' comfort**. Animals often become sick or injured from food and objects thrown into the exhibits. Help us care for our animals by making sure they are only eating food the keepers provide them. Use the designated food to feed the contact area animals.



Kupa the Bear reminds you to be good *Citizens*. Rules are created for your protection. Please obey all the zoo rules and you will have a fun and exciting zoo adventure! Good citizens help protect the environment around them. Throw all trash into the proper trash cans or recycle bins.



Touring the ZOO

Restrooms are located near the gift shop, in the lower level of the Discovery Center, at the entrance **of Kid's Kingdom and by the food concession area at the east end** of the Zoo. Drinking fountains are near the same areas. When you enter the Zoo, proceed through the alpine cabin to begin your tour.

Myron & Jackie Blank Discovery Center

The purpose of the Discovery Center is to foster an understanding that animals, people, and plants are all part of a web of life that ties together all living things. The one connection to all of us is WATER. All animals need water to survive. Encourage students to explore the environment and how water flows throughout the Discovery Center.



Red Panda

Red Pandas are well adapted to living in the foothills of the Himalayas because of the thick fur covering their bodies from head to foot. They spend a lot of time in the trees to be shaded because **they are sensitive to heat. A necessary part of the Red Panda's diet is bamboo**, much like the Giant Panda.

FUN FACT: Red Pandas communicate by using sounds and body language such as head bobbing and tail arching.

Emperor Scorpion

The Emperor Scorpion is identified by its large pincers and the stinger on its tail. They are found in the tropics of Africa and use burrows in the ground for shelter. Even though their stinger looks intimidating, their venom is mild.

FUN FACT: They are a glossy black color, but under a black fluoresce, they are a bright teal color.



Hissing Cockroach

These insects are about 2 –3 inches long. Males have a pair of fairly **noticeable horns on their head, while females have small "bumps."** **They are known as nature's decomposers because their diet consists of dead plant material.** The hissing sound that they make is a result of air being forced out of modified abdominal spiracles (black dots near their tail) Males typically hiss more than females.

Blue Poison Dart Frogs

These frogs got their name because hunters have been known to dip **the tips of their darts in the frog's venom**. Scientists believe that the dart frogs make their poison from the insects that they eat, because poison dart frogs raised in captivity never develop the venom.



Gouldian Finches

Finches are found in the northern tropical part of Australia. They are known for being among the most colorful birds in Australia. They live in flocks along the coast and move inland to breed. Both of the parents share duties of incubating the eggs and raising the young. They eat grass, seeds and insects. Blank Park Zoo is proud to have the largest flock of Gouldian Finches in all of the accredited institutions.

Golden Headed Lion Tamarin

Golden-headed Lion Tamarins are native to Brazil. They are found in tropical rainforests and live in groups of 4-5. They mainly eat fruit but will also eat vegetables, flowers and bugs. Tamarins have an unusual characteristic of claw-like nails, unlike most primates that have flat nails like humans.

FUN FACT: Chocolate production is helpful to tamarins because they live in the trees that provide shade to the cocoa plants.

Water Conservation & Water Quality

Take time to explore how water is present in our daily lives. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the **Earth's surface is covered with water, but only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater**. The ways we treat our land affects our water. Polluted water leaves little available for humans and wildlife to use. Water is essential to all living things. Animals and humans depend on healthy water for food, and drinking.



Egyptian Fruit Bats

These bats are found in the tropics of the middle east, Egypt, and Africa. They roost during the day in trees and caves, and search for fruit at night.

They have flat teeth to grind food and have strong jaws.

FUN FACT: Bats use echolocation and smell to navigate through the trees to find ripe fruit to eat.



Dwarf Caiman



These smallest crocodylians are found in large rivers and lakes throughout South America. They have a high skull and bony plates over their eyelids.

FUN FACT: They avoid predators and hunt by keeping their body very still so they can be mistaken for a log.

Amazon River Exhibit

In the Amazon River Exhibit, you will see Red-Tailed Catfish, Freshwater Stingrays and the Pacu. The Red-Tailed Catfish are fairly shy fish, and zookeepers hand feed them with capelin. The Pacu are the gentle giants the Amazon River and although they look like Piranhas, these fish favor fruits and vegetables. Juvenile Pacu look very similar to piranhas, and this mimicking keeps them safe from predators.



Freshwater Stingray

Rays are cartilaginous fish related to sharks. These fish have a poisonous stinger on their tail, hence the common name of stingray. They eat shrimp, angleworms and pieces of fish. If fed properly these rays can grow to be 18 inches across.



Coral Reef

Coral reefs are among the most fragile and endangered environments. Coral reefs first began to form about 500 million years ago in warm climates. Supporting 25% of marine life, they are extremely diverse. This high diversity is partly due to the fact that coral reefs provide a wide variety of habitats, each with its own set of characteristics species.

Scarlet Macaw

These loud birds communicate by sharp cries and chattering. Nests are made in tree hollows several feet from the ground and they mate for life.

FUN FACT: They are often seen picking at the clay on the side of riverbanks. The clay is thought to neutralize **the acidic nuts and fruit that make up the macaws' diet.**



Chilean Flamingo Pond

A Flamingo's pink color is linked to its diet. Flamingoes have a highly specialized bill structure which allows them to filter algae and small crustaceans out of the slimy mud at the bottom of a pond or lake. To eat, the flamingo stands in water and holds its bill beneath the surface of the water. By moving its tongue, water is pushed through its bill, and tiny food particles, which are high in carotene, are filtered out. Carotene metabolizes into chemicals that turn the skin and feathers pink. Female flamingoes build tall mud or sand nests with a cup-like indentation in the top. Inside the indentation, usually one egg is laid and both parents take turns incubating it. Flamingo chicks have straight bills for the first few months of their lives, and their parents feed them.

North American Otter

The North American River Otter is an aquatic animal related to the mink and badger. It is native to Iowa and was once almost extirpated in this state. In the

1800's before there were wildlife regulatory agencies, the otter suffered from over trapping and hunting. Iowa's habitat saw a dramatic change as wetlands were drained, rivers were channelized, and forests were cut. Water pollution and chemical contamination poisoned the fish on which the otter survived. By the early 1900's, river otters were considered very rare in Iowa. In 1985, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources traded two wild turkeys to Kentucky for a few river otters. These otters were released into the wild and were very successful. Since then many more river otters have been released in the state.



FUN FACT: **The otter's body is very well adapted for swimming. Its ears can close to keep the water out. Otter fur is water repellent and it can stay submerged from 6 to 8 minutes. Some otters have been trained to retrieve fish for humans.**

David Kruidenier Australian Adventure

Please ask the students to stay on the trail. A low voice, slow movements and staying on the trail will make the animals feel more secure and you can get a closer look. Watch the trail closely for tracks!

Emu



The boldest and easiest animal to detect, the Emu, is the large bird that looks something like an ostrich. These flightless birds weigh about 150 pounds. Emus are very curious and often come close to visitors. In the wild, they eat berries, grain, and insects. At the Zoo, the emus are fed a special pellet food and they graze on the grass. Several females lay their eggs in one nest. The eggs are shaped like a **chicken's egg, but are much larger and a very dark green color.** The male will incubate the eggs after the female lays them.

FUN FACT: Emus cannot fly, but they are good swimmers and runners.

Red Wallaby

The most easily identifiable of the animals in the Australian Outback are the Red Wallabies. These small kangaroos are very timid and approach only those who are quiet and slow moving. You will most likely see the wallabies in tall grass near the building or fences. Wallabies are marsupials.



A marsupial's gestation period is short, so the developing embryo called a neonate is born early in its development. A young wallaby is called a joey. In the spring, you will find many joeys peering out of their mothers' pouches or possibly out hopping around. Female wallabies are called "flyers;" males are called "boomers;" and a group of wallabies is called a "mob."

FUN FACT: A female wallaby can have three babies at three developmental stages, all dependent on her at the same time. One developing in the womb; one in the pouch; and one who has left the pouch but who still returns to nurse.

Kookaburra

Kookaburras are large kingfishers from Australia, whose favorite foods include snakes, lizards, and young of other animals. Listen for **the Kookaburra's rolling laughing call which is known as the "bushman's clock" in Australia.**

Aviary

In the bird aviary, there are no barriers between you and the birds. You can learn a lot about a bird just by observing it. Look at the feet. Some feet are designed for swimming; some for perching; some for wading;

and some for catching prey. A bird's beak can tell you about what the bird eats. Some beaks crack open seeds; some can filter food from water; some are designed for ripping and tearing prey.

In the aviary look for several different species of birds Indigenous to Australia and surrounding islands.



FUN FACT: Birds' bones are hollow. Human bones are solid. A hollow bone is much lighter which helps explain why birds can fly and humans can't.

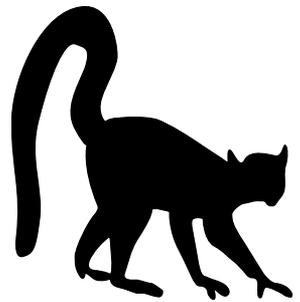
Cassowary

This large, flightless bird is found in the tropical forests of New Guinea and Australia. It is the second tallest living bird smaller only than the Ostrich. This bird is a true omnivore, meaning that it will eat fruit, other plant material, invertebrates, and small vertebrates.

Cassowaries are solitary birds, so they prefer to live alone.

Ring Tailed Lemur

Ring Tailed Lemurs are primates from the island of Madagascar. Madagascar is one of the largest islands on Earth, and it is located just east of Africa in the Indian Ocean. Ring Tailed Lemurs are very social animals and live in groups. They are often seen grooming one another or playing. A lemur suns itself by stretching out its body and leaning back on its tail with its nose pointed to the sun. Lemurs eat leaves, fruit, plant parts and occasionally insects.

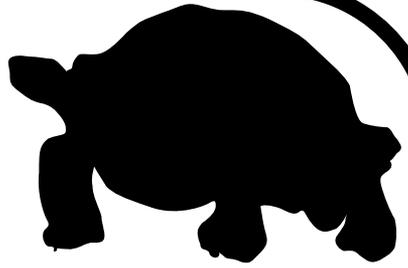


FUN FACT: The word "lemur" comes from the ancient Romans who referred to their deceased ancestors as "lemurs." They believed that these "ghosts" watched over the living with glowing eyes.

Aldabra Tortoise

The Aldabra Tortoise is found on a small island called Aldabra, which is east of Africa and north of Madagascar. These tortoises were at one time found on many islands near Aldabra, but they were hunted to near extinction to provide food for many ships which passed through the area. The Aldabra islet has very jagged rock, which was often fatal for tortoise hunters from the ships. This rugged landscape was responsible for the survival of the giant tortoise on Aldabra. The Aldabra Tortoise is omnivorous. In the wild they eat green leaves, berries, and some carrion. They can live to be around 150 years old and weigh over 500 pounds.

FUN FACT: The huge shells of giant tortoises have been used as a bath tubs.



Black Tailed Prairie Dogs



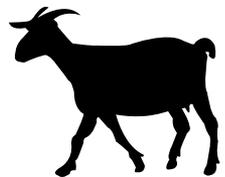
These social rodents are relatives of squirrels. Prairie Dogs are native to the great plains, where they build large towns which can cover many acres of land. These towns often contain several thousand animals. Each town is broken up into smaller groups called coterie. The coterie is the base unit of prairie dog life and consists of one adult male and two to four females and their young.

A prairie dog's burrow is extensive. Each burrow has a mound built around the entrance. Inside the burrow there are several rooms: food storage room, nursery, bathroom and sleeping quarters. The whole social system of the prairie dog is dependent of communication, which consists of body movements and sounds.

FUN FACT: In 1901, a prairie dog town in Texas stretched 250 miles long and 100 miles wide and contained 400 million prairie dogs.

Kids Kingdom (contact area)

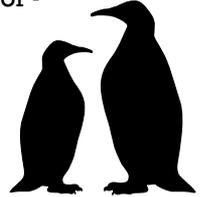
Our exciting playground has many fun experiences for kids. Come have fun on the animal shaped equipment. Slide down the trunk of an elephant. Measure up to the height of a giraffe. Dig in the sand around dinosaur bones and go mining for gems. The animals in this area are all domesticated and are adjusted to human contact. You are welcome to touch and feed these animals. Be sure to look for the Japanese Koi, a colorful carp which can be found under and around the pond viewing deck.



Magellan Penguins

There are 18 species of penguins, all of which live in the Southern Hemisphere. Their environments range from the frozen waters of the Antarctic, and north to the Galapagos Islands where temperatures can reach above 100 degrees F. Magellan Penguins are from the southern tip of South America where the climate is temperate. They are often found in large colonies of one million or more birds.

A penguin's feathers are very similar to shingles on a roof - each one overlaps another forming a watertight barrier that keeps the penguin's soft down feathers dry. Penguins eat small fish and squid, both in the wild and at Blank Park Zoo. Penguins have very sharp beaks that are lined with backward pointing spines to help them hang on to their slippery prey.



Marine Mammal Pool

There are two species in the pool: Harbor Seals and California Sea Lions. Seals and sea lions are called pinnipeds. The word **“pinniped”** means fin-footed. Both species have very thick, soft fur coats. These animals are fed fish and squid several times a day. The marine mammal pool has been renovated to help keep our playful sea lions and seals healthy. The darker underwater paint and the shade structures help keep the glare off the pool from damaging the eyes of our marine mammals. An underwater **viewing area has been installed for the public's entertainment, so please make sure you stop by!**

California Sea Lion

Sea Lions can be recognized by the ear flaps on the sides of their heads, and when they are out of the water they can bring their front flippers underneath their bodies and pull themselves up into a tripod position.



Harbor Seal

Harbor Seals can be recognized by the spots on their bodies. They **have no ear flaps and when they're out of the water they move around on their bellies.**

FUN FACT: Seals and sea lions are capable of holding their breath for 20 to 40 minutes underwater.

Big Cats Exhibit

African Lion

Lions are the only big cats that are social. All other big cats are solitary – they live and hunt alone. Lions live in groups called **“prides.” In the wild, a lion can eat as much as 40 pounds of meat at once.** At the Zoo, the lions are fed a special ground meat with added vitamins and minerals.

FUN FACT: A lion’s roar can carry for more than 5 miles.

Snow Leopard

Snow Leopards are native to the remote and rugged mountains of Asia. They are solitary animals that are constantly covering a territory of 8 to 25 square miles in search of prey. They were nearly **extinct in the late 1970’s from over hunting.**

FUN FACT: The snow leopard’s long tail provides stability along narrow edges. They have one of the longest tails in the cat family proportionate to their size.

Amur Tiger

Tigers are solitary animals and therefore, hunt and live alone. There are six different species of tigers that once roamed Asia from the warm southern part to the cool northern part. All species of tigers are endangered.

Amur tigers are the largest of all cat species.

A male tiger usually weighs about 420 pounds and is about 7 feet long. Females are usually smaller than the males.

Tigers must be very strong to kill their large prey and drag it to a suitable place to feed. These animals need a lot of meat to survive.

In the wild, a tiger must kill about 70 deer each year. It can eat approximately 100 pounds of meat if it is really hungry. The leftover meat is dragged into the bush and buried in the ground for the next time it is hungry. At Blank Park Zoo the tigers are fed a special ground meat which has added vitamins and minerals.

FUN FACT: Most cats don’t like to get wet, but tigers love to play in the water.



White-Handed Gibbon

Gibbons are from the rainforests of Southeast Asia. They spend most of their lives high in the dense foliage of the trees. Their scientific name

(Hylobates) means “dweller of trees.” They move through the trees by swinging one arm over the other. Instead of grasping each limb in



their hands, they use their hands like hooks, allowing them to span 10 feet in a single swing.

FUN FACT: Gibbons communicate with one another by “hooting.”

This loud, unusual sound can carry for several miles around the forest. Gibbons live in families of two parents and their young up to around age 6 or 7.

African Boardwalk

Black Rhinoceros

Black rhinos live in the grasslands and forests of Africa. Rhinos have sharp hearing and a keen sense of smell, but very poor vision.

Black rhinos are browsers, mostly eating trees and bushes. They use their prehensile lips to pluck leaves and fruit from the branches. Rhinos may live up to 45 years in captivity. They are endangered due to habitat loss and poaching. Rhino horns are sold on the black market and are mistakenly believed to have healing qualities. They are actually composed of the same material as are our fingernails!

FUN FACT: The word rhinoceros comes from two Greek words: Rhino means nose, and ceros means horn.

Reticulated Giraffe

There are nine sub-species of giraffe, however, they are all the same species. The different sub-species are identified by the markings on their fur. Blank Park Zoo has reticulated giraffe. This sub-species is identified by the large dark spots that are close together. Other sub-species have spots that are farther apart or are different shapes. All of these sub-species can interbreed to form hybrids.

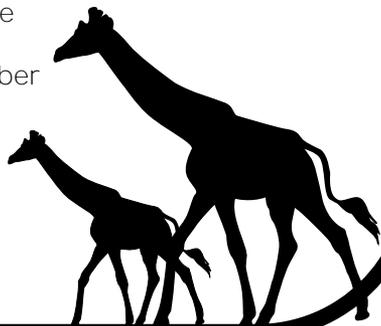
Reticulated giraffe are found in East Africa on open plains that have few trees. The giraffe is the tallest land mammal. Male giraffes can **grow as tall as 17 feet, and weigh as much as 3,000 pounds. That's** almost as tall as a two-story building. In the wild, giraffes eat leaves primarily from acacia trees. At Blank Park Zoo our giraffe eat twenty pounds of grain and one bale of hay every day. They also keep the trees around their exhibit neatly trimmed.

FUN FACTS: A giraffe's neck can be 6 ½ feet long. A person's

neck is less than a foot long. Although the length of the necks are very different, a giraffe and a person have the same number of neck bones – 7. The female giraffe gives birth standing up, so when a baby giraffe is born it slides 5 to 6 feet to the ground. Giraffe feeding is seasonal.

Check event schedule for times.

Fee- \$1.00 for 1 or \$5.00 for 6 treats.



Ostrich

The ostrich is the largest bird in the world, standing at about 9 feet and weighing 140-290 pounds. Ostriches are flightless birds with powerful legs. Contrary to popular belief, the ostrich does not bury its head in the sand when threatened by predators, instead it will run away or kick. An ostrich can run up to 45 mph. When lying down, the ostrich will lay its neck and head along the ground, appearing to be a mound of earth to predators.

Ostriches are herbivores with a diet consisting of seeds, shrubs, grasses, fruit and flowers.

FUN FACT: An ostrich egg weighs 20 times more than a chicken egg. Although it is the largest egg of any animal, it is the smallest relative to the size of the adult.

Addax

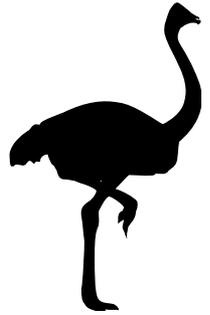
The Addax is an antelope that lives in the Sahara. Its diet consists of available grasses and leaves, and it can go without water for long periods. Due to its slow movements, the Addax is an easy target for predators, including humans. Because of unregulated hunting, the Addax is critically endangered and extremely rare in its native habitat.

Watusi

The Watusi are large horned cattle from Africa, that can tolerate temperatures from 20 to 120 degrees! The Watusi Cattle can weigh as much as 1600 lbs. with horns that span up to 8 feet wide. They use their horns like radiators. The blood circulates through their horns and is cooled before returning to the rest of the body.

Japanese Macaques

Japanese Macaques are also called “snow monkeys” because of the cold, snowy region in Japan where they live. They have a dominance hierarchy which is the basis of their social system. The most dominant animal is the largest male. He is allowed the choicest foods and oversees the entire group. He is in charge of protecting and defending all the other monkeys. Each monkey has a status in **the “pecking order.”** **When a conflict arises, the more dominant monkey will chase the subordinate.** Have your students see if they can find the dominant male.



THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO.....



Wild Things Gift Shop

Don't miss out on Wild Things Gift Shop where you'll find a variety of shirts, stuffed animals, and souvenirs. Restrooms are located directly south of the gift shop.

Safari Grill

Stop at the Safari Grill and take a break. The grill offers a wide variety of food, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, ice cream and soft drinks. Restrooms are located just north of the grill. Only open May-August.

Train

The train tours around the contact area, behind the lions and tigers, makes a loop by the African boardwalk and returns to the station. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Seasonal: Open May-September

Camel Ride

You can ride the camel for \$5.00. The camel is seasonal from May- August.

Kids Kingdom Exciting playground with lots of fun experiences for kids. The animals in this area are all domesticated and are adjusted to human contact. You are welcome to touch and feed these animals. Feed can be purchased by the handful or bucket full.

Giraffe Feeding

Giraffe feeding is seasonal. Hours are during the months of June- August at designated times. The cost is \$2.00 for 1 treat or \$5.00 for 4 treats.

Seal/ Sea Lion Demonstration

Come see the seals' and sea lions' training demonstrations. The show times are at 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

Penguin Feeding Demonstration

Penguin feeding is at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Prices and times subject to change.

Glossary

Adaptation – An inherited characteristic that helps an organism survive in a particular environment.

Amphibian – A **“cold-blooded”** animal that **generally lives in water** when young and on land as an adult; usually has smooth, moist skin, breathes through gills when young; develops lungs as an adult and lays jelly-like eggs

Aquatic – Living in or upon water

Behavior – **An organism’s response to stimulation**

Burrowing – Animals living in holes or dens in the ground

Camouflage—The color, shape or pattern of an organism that helps it blend into its surrounding

Carnivore – An animal that eats other animals

Cold-blooded – An animal whose body temperature varies with the outside environment (ectothermic)

Crustacean – An arthropod (insect relative) that has two pairs of antennae, 5 or more pairs of legs, a skeleton outside of its body and usually lives in water

Diet – The food the animal eats

Diurnal – Active mainly during daylight, rests during night

Domestic—Animals that have been bred to serve humans as pets, livestock, or for labor

Dorsal – Pertaining to, or situated near, the back

Embryo – the earliest stages in the development of an animal, before it has assumed its distinctive form

Environment – All the physical, chemical and biological factors to which an organism is subject

Food Chain – A series of steps of eating and being eaten through which energy produced by plants is passed along from animal to animal

Food Web – An interlocking pattern of several food chains

Fur - Thick hair, usually composed of a soft, dense under fur layer and longer, coarser outer guard hairs

Habitat – A place where an animal or population of animals normally finds food, water, shelter, and space

Herbivore – An animal that eats plants

Hibernate – To pass a period of cold temperatures in a condition in which body temperature drops and metabolic activity slows

Insectivore – An animal that eats insects

Instinct – An inherited type of action, invoked by a certain stimulus and often of complex nature

Invertebrate – An animal without an internal backbone; arthropods, such as insects and crustaceans, and mollusks, like slugs, are examples of invertebrates

Larva – The immature stage of an animal that changes into a more complex adult form; some amphibian young and many insects are larvae

Mammal – A member of the vertebrate category distinguished by hair, milk-producing glands in females, and warm-bloodedness

Marsupial – An order of mammals whose females carry undeveloped young in a pouch

Metamorphosis – The process of change from one form to another very different form; many insects and amphibians undergo metamorphosis to become adults

Migration – The seasonal movement from one place to another made by many birds and other animals

Molt – The shedding of an outer layer of covering that is soon replaced by a new layer, most common in reptiles and birds

Native – Indigenous to a particular region or country

Nocturnal – Active at night

Nymph – **The immature form of an insect that doesn't have a pupal state, it will develop into a similar looking adult**

Omnivore – An animal that eats plant and animal material

Parasite – An organism that lives on or in another, more or less at the expense of the host

Population – A group of animals of the same species within a given area and in which all (potentially) can breed with each other

Predator – An animal that kills and eats other animals

Prey – An animal killed and eaten by another animal

Range – The area over which an individual animal or population travels to find food, shelter and mates

Reptile – **A “cold-blooded” animal with dry, scale-covered skin that lays eggs**

Rodent – A mammal characterized by continually growing, large front teeth (incisors) for gnawing or nibbling; beavers, rats and mice are rodents

Scavenger – An animal that eats meat (often decayed) from a dead animal that it did not kill

Species – Organisms with common characteristics that are able to breed among themselves under natural conditions, producing fertile offspring

Taxonomy – The science of classifying organisms in established categories

Temperate – Moderate climate lacking extremes in temperature

Terrestrial – Belonging to or living on the ground or earth

Vertebrate – Animals having a spinal column or vertebra

Warm-blooded – An animal that maintains a relatively constant and warm body temperature independent from the outside environment (endothermic)

Scavenger Hunt

Animals in the Discovery Center

We have long tails,
In the wild we are few.
We have lots of thick fur,
And we love bamboo.
What are we? R _ _ _ a _ _ a

Awake mainly at night,
Fruits are what I eat.
I am the only flying mammal,
And flying is such a treat!
What am I? _ r _ _ t B _ _

We ssslither and ssslide around,
And sssqueeze to kill our prey.
We are from South America,
And can be silver, tan or gray.
What are we? _ o _ C _ _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ s

We are small and furry,
We jump from tree to tree.
We spend a lot of time playing.
What are we?
G _ _ _ _ n _ _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ a _ _ _

Outside Exhibits

I am gregarious and like to
Stand on one leg.
I may sit on a mound or stand
Along the shallow water's edge.
What am I? C _ i _ _ _ _ _ _ _ a _ _ n _ o

I fly through the water,
As swiftly as you can see.
Fish are what I prefer,
There are many others just like me.
What am I? M _ _ e _ _ _ _ _ _ _ e n _ _ _ n

I am often quite playful,
And you will find me in streams,
I eat clams, fish and mussels,
And live in twos or threes.
What am I? N__t__ A____c__
R___r__t__

Africa is where I am from,
And live in a group called a pride.
You may hear me roar.
But sometimes, I blend in to hide.
What am I? A___c___o__

I swim in the water,
And weigh hundreds of pounds.
My walk is funny,
And I make grunting sounds.
What am I? _e_ __o n

The largest of all cats,
And live where it is cold.
There are few of us left in the wild,
Less than 400, I was told.
What am I? A___ __g_r

You can find me swinging in the canopy,
And hear me sing and howl.
My hands are colored white
Can you see them now?
What am I? W_____ - H_____d ___b_____

I live where it is cold,
You can tell by my fur.
I have unique spots,
I can pounce and cause a stir.
What am I? ___w ___p a__

My face is pink
I am found where it is cold.
I live in a group called a troop,
So I am often times quite bold.
What am I? _n__ M__k_y

