



THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM endeavors to foster a lifelong connection with nature in children and adults by creating a meaningful link between people and wildlife. These activities are designed to be done either at home or at school. Before diving into the materials, here are some tips to help you plan:

These activities are structured around the 5E Lesson Plan model, commonly used in science education:

ENGAGE - Sparking interest in a topic

EXPLORE - Student-led investigation of concepts

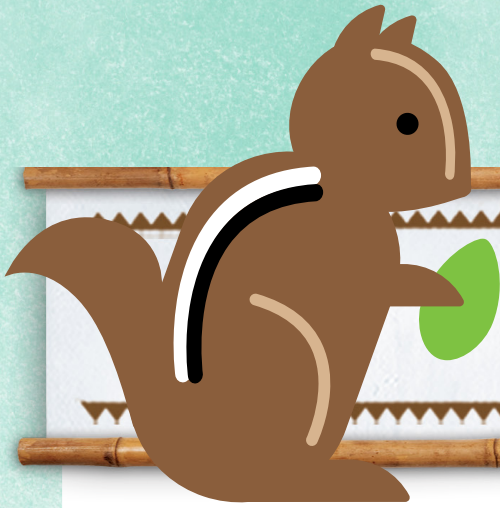
EXPLAIN - Clarification of concepts

EXTEND - Student-led application of concepts

EVALUATE - Opportunity to demonstrate understanding of concepts

This activity packet will guide students as they explore wildlife and wild places. We encourage parents and teachers to utilize all five activities chronologically to provide students a complete learning experience. These activities can be done in a day, or over a longer time span. It is ideal because the educator can tailor the timing around the needs of the learners.

Each section has a brief activity description and a list of materials needed. The instructions are written for the learner; however, we encourage adults to work closely with their students. (Be sure to supervise students when doing any outdoor activities.) Most importantly, we hope you have a fun and engaging experience!



BASIC NEEDS

5 STEPS TO A MEANINGFUL ZOO PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED TIME	MATERIALS NEEDED
<p>ENGAGE</p> <p>Discuss similarities and differences among characteristics of living things.</p>	<p>Read <i>What Kind of Living Thing Is It?</i> by Bobbie Kalman</p> <p>Talk with a friend or sibling - can these living things reproduce and survive in specific environments? What type of environments? Discuss together.</p>	<p>10-15 minutes</p>	<p>Copy of <i>What Kind of Living Thing is It?</i> by Bobbie Kalman</p>
<p>EXPLORE</p> <p>Go outside with an adult and explore the school yard or your own backyard.</p>	<p>Either by yourself, with an adult, or small groups/pairs and go on a nature walk and complete "Is it Living?" chart. Compare findings and chart them.</p>	<p>20-30 minutes</p>	<p>"Is it Living?" chart</p>
<p>EXPLAIN</p> <p>Shelters for animals do not always look the same.</p>	<p>Read <i>Mouse House</i> by Rumer Godden and discuss with your classmates or parent.</p> <p>On a piece of chart paper, list the differences in shelters based on each animal's needs.</p>	<p>20-30 minutes</p>	<p>Copy of "Mouse House" by Rumer Godden</p> <p>Chart paper, markers or crayons</p>
<p>EXTEND</p> <p>Create a habitat for an elephant herd.</p>	<p>Watch this elephant video.</p> <p>How would you create a habitat for the baby elephant? Draw your own design. Make sure the elephants have everything they need to live a long and happy life!</p>	<p>30-45 minutes</p>	<p>Art supplies: construction paper, glue, scissors, crayons, colored pencils</p>
<p>EVALUATE</p> <p>Think about different types of animals and plants. How are their needs the same and how they are different?</p>	<p>Select one or two books from the booklist. Then search through the books and draw pictures of two animals and two plants. Be sure to include how their needs are met in a specific habitat. Label each.</p>	<p>20-30 minutes</p>	<p>Drawing paper</p>





IS IT LIVING CHART

IS IT LIVING? Answer the questions below to decide.

NAME OR PICTURE OF OBJECT	DOES IT NEED FOOD?	DOES IT NEED WATER?	DOES IT NEED AIR?	DOES IT GROW?	DOES IT REPRODUCE OR HAVE BABIES?	DOES IT MOVE ON IT OWN?	IS IT ALIVE?
<i>EXAMPLE</i> Bench	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
<i>EXAMPLE</i> Tiger	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
<i>EXAMPLE</i> Moss	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES





PICTURE BOOKS



***WHILE GRADE LEVELS ARE LISTED, ALL BOOKS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.**

PICTURE BOOK	AUTHOR	GRADES
<i>What Do Living Things Need?</i>	Elizabeth Austen	K-2
<i>We Are Growing</i>	Mo Willems and Laurie Keller	K-2
<i>Do You Know Which Ones Will Grow?</i>	Susan Shea	K-2
<i>Is It a Living Thing?</i>	Bobbie Kalman	K-2
<i>Plants Are Living Things</i>	Bobbie Kalman	K-2
<i>What Kind of Living Thing Is It?</i>	Bobbie Kalman	3-5
<i>Are You Living?</i>	Purdie Salas	K-2
<i>Living Things Need Water</i>	Bobbie Kalman	K-2
<i>What's Alive?</i>	Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld	K-2
<i>Living Things in My Back Yard</i>	Bobbie Kalman	K-2
<i>How Do Living Things Find Food?</i>	Bobbie Kalman	K-2
<i>Mouse House</i>	Rumer Godden	K-5