

Habitat Exploration at the Denver Zoo

Field Trip Guide

A habitat is defined as the environment in which an animal is normally found. Habitats consist of four basic components that every animal needs to survive: food, water, shelter, and space to live and raise young.

Chaperone Objectives:

1. To keep students engaged and learning in a safe environment!!!
2. Discuss with students how the animals' needs are met in their exhibits. Reiterate the four components of a habitat: food, water, shelter, and space to live and raise young.

Structuring Your Zoo Experience:

- The topic of habitat allows you to tour anywhere in the Zoo.
- At each exhibit ask students:
 - What are the components of the animals' habitat? How are the animals provided with food, water, shelter, and space at the Denver Zoo?
Example: In the sea lion exhibit, there is ample space and lots of water, but where's their food? Sea lion feeding times are at 10:30am and 2:30pm. For shelter there are two shade structures in the exhibit.
 - Where do the animals live in the wild? What do the students think they eat, and why? How do the animals obtain their food?
Example: Lions have big sharp teeth to help them capture and tear the meat they eat.
 - How are the components of the animal's habitat different in the wild than at the Zoo? Read the graphics on the signage in front of the exhibit, and decide what, if anything, is missing from its zoo habitat.
 - Have students observe the animals in their exhibits and decide what they spend most of their time doing, and where they spend most of their time. Judging by your observations, what, if anything, could be added to the animals' habitats to make them more comfortable?
Example: If there is only one tree in a monkey's exhibit and that is where they spend most of their time, students may suggest that the Zoo provide more trees.
 - What are some things humans need to survive, and how do they obtain these things?

Your most important duty is to keep students with you at all times

Encourage students to learn by observing

Ask questions to keep students involved