

Counting Sheep

This packet is to help introduce your students to terms and ideas that will be discussed during your visit to Peoria Zoo. It is designed to enhance your program experience, either through class prep or follow-up.

By using the vocabulary, activities, and ideas it will help reinforce the program and meet the State Standards listed on page 2.

Terms to introduce

- Crepuscular-animals which are active at dawn and dusk
- Diurnal-animals which are active during the daytime
- Nocturnal-animals which are active at night

Ideas to discuss

- Discuss the differences between nocturnal, diurnal, and crepuscular
- Introduce different adaptations that nocturnal animals have (Nocturnal animal have special adaptations that help them survive in the dark. Many nocturnal animals, like owls, lemurs and cats, have special eyes that see well in the dark. Some nocturnal animals, like bats, use echolocation, in which the animal emits a high-pitched sound which bounces off objects; the sound is then received by the animal, giving it information about the object's shape, direction, distance, and texture. Other nocturnal animals (like rabbits) have good hearing.)
- How much sleep is enough? Giraffes can go without sleep for weeks, while brown bats sleep for nearly the entire day. The golden dormouse carefully balances itself on the branch of a tree to sleep, and any quiver of the twig wakes it up immediately. Marine mammals have unique sleep habits. When most species of marine mammals are asleep, there is always one hemisphere of their brain that is awake. This allows dolphins, for example, to swim and surface to breathe when they are sleeping. They enjoy the benefits of sleep but still perform many of the same processes done when awake.
- Identify the nocturnal animal(s) that was brought, identify the diurnal animal(s) that was brought, and identify the crepuscular animal(s) that was brought
- Discuss different sleep behaviors and patterns