Peoria Zoo is home to hundreds of unique and educational animals. This guide will prepare zoo visitors for a fun filled expedition of adventure and learning.
WELCOME TO THE PEORIA ZOO!

You can use this guide in a few ways:
- to enhance programs offered at the Zoo
- to create your own activities for your group
- for self-guided tours

The guide focuses on animal diversity, range, habitat, and fun facts about each species here at the Peoria Zoo.

Use of the guide in cooperation with zoo fact signs posted for each animal at the zoo will provide an educational learning experience.

Don’t forget the activities in the back of this guide (not only fun but helps meet state standards!)

PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP

♦ Presenting a general overview of the itinerary will help students feel prepared and excited about their trip.
♦ Present students with reasons Zoos are important
  • Many animals are losing their natural habitats
  • Animals can live safely and raise their young
  • Opportunity to teach conservation practices
  • One on one experience with animals
♦ Explain appropriate behavior while at the Zoo which is “home” to the animals here
  ♦ Polite behavior toward the animals is important
  ♦ No yelling, banging on exhibit glass, or climbing on railing, etc.
  ♦ No picking plants/leaves
♦ Name tags, color coordinated shirts or any identifying symbol is a great idea for teachers and students visiting the Zoo
♦ Provide chaperone with a copy of the map with meeting places marked
♦ Picnic areas are available in the Zoo or in Glen Oak Park surrounding the zoo, shelters may be reserved by phoning 309-682-1200.
Creating connections for over 50 years!
Look for these symbols throughout the Zoo!

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

A national association that Zoos and Aquariums belong to after going through a rigorous evaluation process. Zoos bearing this logo (such as the Peoria Zoo) have passed all the requirements necessary. Zoos in this organization work together, sharing information, research and even animals! Find out more at www.aza.org.

The Species Survival Plan (SSP) is a program that identifies animals that are in danger in the wild. These animals serve as representatives of their species out in the wild. They are in breeding programs in Zoos around the country. Using a system called ISIS (International Species Inventory System), we share genetic information of our animals with other zoos so we can breed animals that might eventually be introduced back to the wild.

Look for this symbol on animals such as lions, tigers, Cotton-top tamarins, rhinoceros, ring tailed lemurs, mandrill, spider monkey, Grevy's zebra.
Home to a Variety of Animals

The Peoria Zoo is home to all five classes of vertebrate animals along with several invertebrate species.

**Vertebrates**

Vertebrates are animals with backbones, most with elongated, bilaterally symmetric bodies. Most vertebrates have two pair of specialized appendages (i.e. Birds for flying, fish for swimming) and include amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles.

♦ **Amphibians**: are considered to be the first animals to adapt to life on land. They are cold blooded animals with smooth, moist, permeable skin. Most return to the water to lay their eggs and their young go through distinct life stages before becoming adults (i.e. tadpoles to frogs). Amphibians also serve as environmental indicators for scientists, as they are normally the first to show signs of detrimental changes in an environment. They are considered to be the proverbial “canary in the coal mine”.

♦ **Birds**: are feathered, warm-blooded vertebrates and most are capable of flight. They reproduce by laying calcareous eggs and most care for their young. Since birds are warm-blooded and highly mobile, they are able to live in every habitat and are found on all seven continents.
Fish: are the oldest forms of vertebrate, dating back 450 million years. They are cold-blooded, having mucous covered bodies making them feel slimy. Most are scaled and have fins (modified appendages) to swim. Although they originated in the salt waters of the Ocean, many have adapted to fresh water environments.

Mammals: are the only class of animals that grow fur or hair on their bodies. Most females give live birth and have mammary glands to feed their young. Most mammals only have two sets of teeth, while most fish, amphibians and reptiles teeth are replaced constantly. They are warm blooded and species occur in every environment.

Reptiles: are the first “true” land dwellers*. They are cold-blooded vertebrates with scales that are dry to the touch. Their body temperature is determined by their surroundings and they can often be found sunning themselves to raise their body temperature. Most female reptiles lay eggs with a leathery exterior that prevents them from drying out.
Invertebrates

Invertebrates are animals with no backbone. They make up ninety six percent of all identified species in the world. The invertebrates perform extremely important functions in our environment such as turning organic matter into soil, pollination, population control of other species, food for other species including humans (lobster, crab) and creating useful products such as honey, wax, silk, and shellac to name a few. It is believed that there are many invertebrate species left to discover.
A few things to make using this guide easier:

Look for the 😊

When you see this symbol under the animal descriptions, these facts are found on the animal’s signs. You can use them if you would like to make a scavenger hunt for your group.

Animals in this guide are color coded to areas they are located in the Zoo.

African animals will be in brown

Tropics building animals will be in green

Asian trail animals will be in red

Conservation center animals will be in blue

Treetops animals will be in purple

Australia walk-about animals will be in orange

Contact area animals will be in grey
**Amphibian**

**Axolotl**
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center  
Scientific Name: *Ambystoma mexicanum*  
Range & Habitat: SE Mexico city and Mexico  
Indigenous to Lake Xochimilco in stagnant water, slow moving channels

- Unlike many vertebrates, the body is not completely bony, cartilage makes up the ankles, wrists, and support system of the gills
- Average life span is 10 to 12 years or up to 25 in captivity
- Critically endangered due to habitat destruction, by pollution, and introduced species

**Frog, Poison Arrow**
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center  
Scientific Species: *Dendrobates (species varies)*  
Range & Habitat: South American countries, Panama, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Guyana, Colombia, Brazil, Surinam  
Rain forest floor near small streams, pools

- Named because some Native American tribes used secretions to poison their darts (3 species are dangerous to humans)
- Research is being done because some compounds in their bodies (if harnessed correctly) are believed to be 200 times more powerful than morphine.
- Vulnerable due to decreasing habitat they may be put on the endangered list
- Bright colors are used to warn predators of their poison
Frog, Golden
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center
Scientific Name: Atelopus zeteki
Range & Habitat: Panama
Forest floor, along forest streams, waterfalls, moss covered boulders

♦ Secrete poison to help protect themselves from predators
♦ Critically endangered and possibly extinct in the wild
J No eardrums, communicate by waving its hands

Toad, Colorado River
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center
Scientific Name: Bufo alvarius
Range & Habitat: Sonoran desert, SW United States, and NW Mexico
Damp areas of desert, mountain canyons, grassland, forests

♦ Endangered in California, threatened in Mexico, common in the rest of their range
♦ Largest native toad species in the United States
J Have poison on their skin that can be hazardous if ingested by dogs or small animals
**Birds**

**Budgies**

Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk-Through (May-September)

Scientific Name: *Melopsittacus undulatus*

Range & Habitat: Arid and semi-arid zones of Australia in open woodland or grasslands near water

- One of the most popular domesticated birds
- Adapted to drought conditions that may last up to 10 years
- Can live up to 20 years in captivity
Chicken, Domestic
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name:  *Gallus gallus*
Range & Habitat:  Originated in SE Asia
♦ Use many sounds to communicate
♦ Males can be identified by red combs on head and wattles under the chin

Emu
Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk Through
Scientific Name:  *Dromaius novaehollandiae*
Zoo Name:  Earl, Swiffer & Duster
Range & Habitat:  Most of Australia
Open county habitats from semi desert, grasslands and open woodlands
♦ Ingest pebbles to held with food digestion
♦ Government wished to reduce numbers because they destroy cereal crops
♦ Population has survived well in spite of reduction
♦ Males incubate eggs, for 56 days
**Hornbill, Papuan**
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: *Rhyticeros plicatus*
Zoo Name: Fiona
Range & Habitat: Found in Eastern Indonesia and New Guinea
   Evergreen trees in primary and secondary forests
   - The large bill assists in preening, constructing the nest and catching prey
   - Monogamous and territorial, males and females both raise the young
   - Females wall themselves into a tree hollow and stay their until their young are fully feathered. Males will feed the females through a hole in the hollow while they are in the nest

**Kookaburra**
Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk-Through (May-Sept)
Scientific Name: *Dacelo novaeguineae*
Range & Habitat: Eastern and Southwest Australia
   - Introduced into Tasmania
   - Open forest and woodland
   - Use mimicry to copy sounds they hear around them
   - Prey on animals regarded as pests by people
   - Wide spread and in no danger of extinction
   - Kookaburra's well known for their braying laugh-like call
Peafowl
Where in the Zoo? Asian Trail
Scientific Name: *Pavo cristata*
Range & Habitat: India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
Open forests and undergrowth
- Eleven different calls, some can be very loud
- Peacock only refers to the male, a peahen is a female and babies are peachicks

Male's 4 to 5 foot train is not his real tail but an ornament made up of over 200 feathers, the tail is located under-neath and lifts the feathers when displayed

Swan, Black
Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk-Through
Scientific Name: *Cygnus atratus*
Range & Habitat: Australia and introduced into New Zealand
Wetland area, water less than 3 feet deep
- Black swans are social and nest side by side
- Regained most of their range after hunting was stopped

Only swan native to Australia

Weaver, Taveta Golden
Where in the Zoo? Treetops in Africa
Scientific Name: *Ploceus castaneiceps*
Range & Habitat: Found in Kenya and Tanzania
Open Woodlands
- Nest in large colonies
- Very noisy birds that chatter constantly
- They get their name by the elaborate nests they build
- Males are more colorful, with yellow patches and greenish wings and tail. Chestnut patches on the chest and nape
**INVERTEBRATES**

**Insects**

**Cockroaches, Madagascar Hissing**

Where in the Zoo? Treetops in Africa  
Scientific Name: *Gromphadorhina portentosa*  
Region & Habitat: Madagascar  
Rainforest among decaying logs and vegetation

- There are 3500 different species and 99% are not considered pests
- A cockroach can live up to 9 days without a head
- Spiracles on their body push air out to create the hissing noise
- Cockroaches have changed very little over the past 250 million years

**Arthropods**

**Scorpion, Emperor**

Where in the Zoo? Treetops in Africa  
Scientific Name: *Pandinus imperator*  
Range & Habitat: Coastal West Africa, Senegal to Congo and Gabon  
Hot, humid rainforests

- Emperor Scorpions do not need to drink water, it is obtained from their food
- Emperor scorpions are being monitored due to habitat destruction and pet trade
- The sting of most scorpions is not deadly to human, but is very painful.
**Tarantula**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building  
Family: Theraphosidae  
Range & Habitat: Tropical and desert regions throughout the world

- Tarantulas grow and molt their exoskeleton
- Tarantula has eight eyes but can only distinguish between light and dark
- Several species are threatened due to pet trade
- Most North American varieties are harmless to humans (unless you are allergic) and will only bite as a last resort to protect themselves.
- Species that may be exhibited at the Zoo include Mexican Blonde tarantulas and Chilean Rose Tarantula

---

**Vinegaroon**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building  
Scientific Name: *Mastigoproctis giganteus*  
Range & Habitat: Southern and Southwestern United States and south into Mexico  
Debris on soil, under logs and rotting wood

- They possess no venom, instead they eject an acetic-acid bearing liquid
- Have 8 eyes, 2 in the middle and 3 on each side of their head
Invertebrate fun facts
Did you know......

...about 97% of all animals are invertebrates

...there are more insects in one square mile of farm land than there are humans in the world

...it is the female mosquitoes that bite. Mosquitoes will transmit disease to more than 700 million people annually

...ants can carry more than 50 times their weight

...beetles account for nearly 1/4 of all known plants and animals

...there are nearly as many species of ants (8800) as there are birds (9000)

...flies can “taste” with their feet

...some species of mayflies can take up to 3 years to hatch-then have a lifespan of about 6 hours

...water spiders spend their entire life underwater in an air bubble they've spun from silk

...the Goliath Bird Eating Spider is the largest spider, measuring 12 inches of leg span and can weigh 2.5 ounces

...almost 100% of a fireflies luminescence light is given off as light; in comparison, a regular light bulb gives off only 10% of its energy as light and 90% as heat

...the largest butterfly in the world is the Queen Alexandria’s Birdwing; found in New Guinea it has a wingspan of almost 11 inches
**Mammals**

**Armadillo, Three-banded**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics building  
Scientific Name: *Tolypeutes matacus*  
Range & Habitat: Found throughout Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay  
- Dry forests and savannas  
  - Named for the three bands of tough skin along the middle of the back  
  - When threatened they will roll into a ball  
  - Can sniff out a worm 8 inches un-

**Bat, Spear-nosed**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building  
Scientific Name: *Phyllostomus hastatus*  
Range & Habitat: Central & South America, Honduras to Paraguay, S. Brazil, Trinidad  
- Forests and open country, near water  
  - Bats are “true winged” and the only mammal able to fly  
  - Bat waste/guano used as fertilizer in parts of the world  
  - The bat is named for its “nose leaf” which aids in echo-location, so that the bat can find food
Donkey, Common
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name: *Equus asinus*
Zoo Name: Jasmine & Violet
Habitat: Domestic are worldwide, wild are found in N. Africa, Arabian Peninsula
Desert, dunes, savanna, grasslands and Agricultural areas
♦ Used as beasts of burden since 3000 B.C.
♦ Large ears provide great hearing and also aid in cooling, allowing body heat to escape
♦ Numbers continue to grow; used for farming, transportation
J Able to carry up to 200 pounds

GAZELLE, THOMSON'S
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: *Gazella thomsoni*
Zoo Names: Johnny, Spot and Jake
Range & Habitat: Southern Kenya to Northern Tanzania
Open plains and grasslands
♦ Sometimes called a “Tommy”
♦ Heightened sense of hearing, sight, smell that give them early warning of predators
♦ Males defend their territories and fight other encroaching males with horns
♦ Not at risk
GERENUK
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name:  Litocranius walleri
Zoo Name:  Chad
Range & Habitat:  E. Africa from Serengeti Plain of Tanzania, along Northern coast
Treeless plains to dry high deserts,
♦ Contribute to nutrient cycling in the ecosystem through their foraging activity
♦ Not considered to be at risk due to protection in most of its range, although loss of habitat is a concern
♦ Will stand on their back legs to reach leaves in the trees
♦ Have a strong muscled neck that allows them to hold themselves up to reach the leaves
GIRAFFE
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: Giraffa camelopardalis
Zoo Name: Vivian and Taji
Range & Habitat: Africa South of the Sahara to E.
Transvaal, Natal, N. Botswana, reintroduced to S. Africa game reserves
Savannas, grassland, open woodland
With Acacia growth
♦ Giraffe’s heart can pump 16 gallons of blood in one minute
♦ Other animals use giraffes as watchtowers for predators
♦ Able to reach speeds of 32 to 60 km/hour and sprint for long distances
♦ Not considered to be at risk due to protection in most of its range, although loss of habitat is a concern
Goat, Domestic/ Nigerian Dwarf
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name: *Capra hircus hircus nigerian*
Range & Habitat: Wild ancestors from Asia Minor to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Oman, Crete, Variety of habitats
♦ Wild goats listed as vulnerable due to competition for forage from domestic flocks
♦ Goats are valued for production of meat, milk and wool; Nigerian dwarf goats are able to produce larger quantities of milk for their size.

Domestic Horse
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name: *Equus caballus*
Zoo Name: Silver
Habitat: Open plains, grasslands
♦ Only one species of domestic horse with around 400 different breeds
♦ Prezewalski’s horse is the only true wild horse that was never Domesticated and were last seen in Mongolia in 1968
♦ Horses were probably domesticated around 4,000 B.C.
HOG, RED RIVER

Where in the Zoo?  Africa

Scientific Name:  *Potamochoerus porcus*

Zoo Name:  Athena, Sultana, Art

Range & Habitat:  West and Central Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern S. Africa and Madagascar

Primary and secondary forests, Savanna, thickets, swamps, steppes and around human villages

♦ Most active at night, during day they spend time in burrows of dense vegetation

♦ Threat displays of their facial masks and loud noises

♦ Madagascar introduction is believed to be by human introduction or possibly floating across on papyrus beds which detach and float out to sea

♦ Population on the rise, detrimental results as they are destructive to crops and carry transmittable diseases to domestic pigs
Llama
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name: Llama glama
Zoo Name: Osmar
Range & Habitat: Native to S. Peru through W. Bolivia, NW Argentina and NE Chile
Open dry mountains and plains
- Llamas’ domesticated in Peru 4000 – 5000 years ago and used as beasts of burden.
- Meat is used for food, fleece for clothing, hide for sandals, fat for candles, hair braided into rope and dried feces for fuel.
- Not threatened but numbers are declining as they are replaced by modern means of transportation
- When upset llamas spit a foul-smelling liquid
**Lemurs, Mongoose**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building  
Scientific Name: *Eulemur mongoz*  
Zoo Name: Calvin and Tamatave  
Range & Habitat: Madagascar and Comoros Island  
Tropical dry forest  
- They love nectar, making them important pollinators  
- Endangered due to loss of habitat to agriculture, hunting and pet trade  
- Males have pale faces and reddish cheeks while females have dark faces and white cheeks (both of the zoos mongoose lemurs are males)

**Lemurs, Ring-tailed**

Where in the Zoo? Tropics building  
Scientific Name: *Lemur catta*  
Zoo Name: Aiden & Donovan  
Range & Habitat: Southwest Madagascar  
Arid, open areas and forests  
- Tails ringed with 13 alternating black and white band and can measure up to 2' in length  
- Spend most of their time on the ground  
- They use their striped tails as “flags” as they are moving so the troop can stay together.  
- Endangered due to loss of habitat to agriculture, hunting and pet trade  
- Use odor for communication, use glands on arms to soak tail and spread scent
**Lion, African**
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: *Panthera leo krugeri*
Zoo Name: Lizzie and Arthur
Range & Habitat: Sub-Saharan Africa, normally found in savannas or grasslands

- A group of lions is called a pride and is made up of related females and offspring and a small number of adult males.
- Females do most of the hunting, working together to bring down the prey, allowing them to hunt bigger animals.
- Lions are the only members of the cat family to display obvious sexual dimorphism—that is, males and females look distinctly different.

**Mandrill**
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: *Mandrillus sphinx*
Zoo Name: Little Big Man, Philly and Tara
Range & Habitat: Cameroon, Gabon, Guinea, Congo

- “Mandrill” is actually two words: “Man” meaning man-like and “drill” is a West African name for the animal
- Have a pouch on the inside of their cheeks in which to store food for later
- Endangered
**Meerkat, Slender-tail**

Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building  
Scientific Name:  *Suricata suricatta*  
Zoo Name:  Tac, Toe and Eenie  
Range & Habitat:  Southern Africa, Desert or rocky terrain  
  ♦ Band together to scare off larger predators  
  ♦ Not threatened or endangered  
J  Meerkats can safely eat scorpions and snakes because they are immune to the venom

**Monkey, Black-handed Spider**

Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building  
Scientific Name:  *Ateles geoffroyi*  
Zoo Name:  Butch, Agnes, Gracie, and Darla  
Range & Habitat:  NE Mexico (Tamaulipas), west coast of Mexico to NW Columbia  
  Rainforests, high canopies  
  ♦ When approached they will break off dead branches weighing up to 11 pounds and drop them at the observer  
  ♦ Listed as Endangered, natural habitat has been reduced by ninety percent  
J  Long prehensile tail used to grasp objects and climb
**Monkey, Colobus**
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: *Colobus guereza*
Zoo Name: Tana, Scout, Mazey and Cody
Range & Habitat: Equatorial Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro to Nigeria, Forests, along riverbanks
- Rarely leave the trees to come down to the ground
- Bushy tales are often longer than their bodies
- White fur on the monkey’s sides serves to confuse predators and also aids in slowing their descent when jumping from branch to branch (works like a parachute)
- Threatened due to habitat destruction, and hunting for their fur

**Mole rat, Giant Zambian**
Where in the Zoo? Treetops
Scientific Name: *Cryptomys mechowi*
Range & Habitat: Congo, northern Zambia and Central Angola, Tropical woodland and savannah, underground
- Eyes are small and only detect light or dark
- Their skin is loose and allows them to shake off dirt and turn around easily in tunnels.
- The large incisors allow them to dig out their tunnels and the strong muscular lips behind the incisors keep dirt out of their mouth while they dig.
Reeve's (Chinese) Muntjac
Where in the Zoo? Asian Trail
Scientific Name: Muntiacus reevesi
Zoo Name: Samson and Peach
Range & Habitat: Southern China and Taiwan
- Found in temperate and tropical forests with large amounts of cover
- Males have antlers and canine teeth that can get up to 1 inch long
- They use their extremely long tongue to reach many of their favorite foods
- Muntjacs make a sharp barking sound as their alarm call, giving them the nickname barking deer.

Porcupine, African Crested
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: Hystrix africaeaustralis
Zoo Name: Spike, Brownie & Snickers
Range & Habitat: Forests, plantations, rocky areas, deserts
- Rattle quills vibrated together produce hiss-like rattling
- Excellent swimmers
- Not threatened but have disappeared from heavily settled areas
- Babies are born with soft quills that begin to harden within a few hours after birth
RHINOCEROS, WHITE
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: *Ceratotherium simum*
Zoo Name: Leo and Harris
Range & Habitat: Eastern and Southern Africa
Open grassland and flood plains
♦ Horn is not attached to the skull, it grows from the skin and is made of the same material as a fingernail
♦ Unlike other rhino species, females travel in groups between male territories
♦ Northern White Rhino is listed as critically endangered, while Southern White Rhino is at low risk due to strict conservation and poaching laws.

Sea Lion, California
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: *Zalophus californianus californianus*
Zoo Name: Rosa
Range & Habitat: West Coast of North America, coast of Japan and Korea and Galapagos Islands
Coasts and rarely more than 10 miles out to sea
♦ Sea Lions have hind flippers which can be rotated to provide better locomotion on land (Seals do not have this physical adaptation)
♦ Sea Lions have external ear flaps that allow them to locate prey under water easier (seals do not have these)
♦ Population has rebounded from over hunting and is stable
♦ May dive up to 1000 feet and close their ear flaps and nostrils while under water
**Shrew, Black and Rufous Elephant**

Where in the Zoo?  Treetops building  
Scientific Name:  *Rhynchocyon petersi*  
Zoo Name:  Gonzo  
Range & Habitat:  forests and dense woodlands of eastern Kenya and Tanzania.  
♦  Found in pairs on adjoining territories  
♦  Mate for life  
J  Use their long nose to sniff out insects and gather then with their tongue.

**Shrew, Northern Tree**

Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building  
Scientific Name:  *Tupaia belangeri*  
Zoo Name:  Rocky & Natasha  
Range & Habitat:  A wide variety of forests from Eastern Nepal and Bangladesh to southeastern China, Indo china, and the Malay Peninsula  
♦  Females nurse their young every two days and essentially ignore them between feedings-they don't groom or care for their nest. The young will remain with the adults until sexual maturity, which is about 4 months.  
J  Have the highest brain to body mass ratio of any animal, even larger than humans.
**Sloth, Hoffman’s Two-toed**
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: *Choleopus hoffmanni*
Zoo Name: Dustin & Tootsie
Range & Habitat: Nicaragua to Peru and Central Brazil
   - Tropical forests, almost entirely arboreal
   - Spends nearly its entire life upside down: eating, sleeping, mating, and giving birth
   - Come to the ground once a week to urinate and defecate
   - No immediate danger of extinction but habitat destruction is a concern

*Sloth’s coat has a greenish cast due to algal growth on the skin. Algae helps camouflage the sloth and contains nutrients absorbed through the skin or by licking.*

---

**Takin**
Where in the Zoo? Asian Trail
Scientific Name: *Budorcas taxicolor*
Range & Habitat: China and along the eastern Himalayas in Asia
   - Temperate forests and taiga (boreal forests)
   - Their coat is two layers, underneath thick and warm, with the outer coat oily to help keep them dry.
   - Takin are agile animals that can jump as high as 6 feet.

*The snout contains large sinus cavities that warm the air before it reaches the lungs.*
Tamarin, Cotton-headed
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: *Saguinus oedipus*
Zoo Name: Neo, Georgie, Maya and Harold
Range & Habitat: Central America, Costa Rica, Panama, NW Columbia
   Tropical forests, open woodlands
♦ Rarely climb more than 100 feet, move through trees with quick and jerky movements
♦ Calls consist of whistles, screeches, squeaks and warble some are too high-pitched for humans to hear
♦ Endangered since 1976, hunted for pet trade, research labs and suffer from loss of habitat.

Males carry babies until they are large enough to get around on their own.
Tiger, Amur
Where in the Zoo?  Asian Trail
Scientific Name:   *Panthera tigris altaica*
Zoo Name:   Vaska, Nikita, Sasha, Maxim, Luka
Range & Habitat:   Eastern Russia, Northeastern China and N. Korea
   Forests and bush covered mountains
♦ Can eat up to 40 pounds of meat in one sitting
♦ Critically endangered/ Species survival plan
♦ Biggest cats in the world, males can reach lengths of 11 feet and weigh over 600 pounds
Wallaby, Bennetts
Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk-Through
Scientific Name: Macropus rufogriseus fruticus
Range & Habitat: Eastern Queensland to southeastern South Australia, Tasmania, and islands in the Bass Straight
Eucalyptus forests and tall, coastal heath
- Bennett’s wallabies were introduced to Great Britain in 1940, and can still be found in Northern England and Scotland
- There are 8 different sub-species of wallaby
- Marsupials are named for their pouch which is called a marsupium

Wallaby, Parma
Where in the Zoo? Australian Walk-Through
Scientific Name: Macropus parma
Range & Habitat: New South Wales
Rainforests and forests with dense understory and grassy areas
- The difference between a wallaby and kangaroo is size, kangaroos are generally larger.
- The long tail helps with balance as they hop.
- Females can produce 2 types of milk, one for newborns and one for young who are weaned.
ZEBRA, GREVY’S
Where in the Zoo? Africa
Scientific Name: Equus grevyi
Zoo Name: Phoebe & Hogan
Range & Habitat: S.E. Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia
Dry desert region and open grassland
♦ Stripes help camouflage and break up outline of zebra especially when viewed through bushes. Motionless zebras are nearly invisible to the human eye at night from (5 to 15 meters) away.
♦ Adapted well to desert-like habitat of extreme heat and drought, can survive for several days without eating or drinking.
♦ New born zebras have a critical imprint period during which they must learn to recognize their Mother. Mother’s are very pro-

Zebu
Where in the Zoo? Animal Contact Area
Scientific Name: Bos taurus indicus
Zoo Name: Zoe
Range & Habitat: East Asia, India, Africa
♦ Carry a large fatty hump over its shoulder
♦ More sweat glands better adapts them for hot environments and increase their pest resistance
♦ Known as the “Sacred Cattle of India” and allowed to roam the streets and villages
Reptiles

Alligator, Chinese
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center
Scientific Name: Alligator sinensis
Zoo Name: Sparky
Range & Habitat: Lower Yangtze Valley of China Areas with permanent water (i.e. Ditches, ponds, reservoirs)

♦ Life expectancy is 50 years or more
♦ Endangered due to poaching and loss of habitat (decreased by 90%)

Distinguished from crocodile by the fourth tooth on the lower jaw which can’t be seen when alligator’s mouth is shut but can be seen on crocodile

Boa, Common
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: Boa constrictor constrictor
Range & Habitat: S. Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, parts of Peru, Argentina, and islands including Trinidad Rainforests

♦ Boa constrictors are excellent swimmers and spend a lot of time in or near rivers
♦ Threatened boas hiss loudly and can be heard 100 feet away
♦ Boa numbers are dropping due to habitat destruction and hunting for skin and food

Squeeze prey until it can’t breathe and then swallow meal whole
Boa, Dumeril's Ground
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: *Acrantophis dumerili*
Range & Habitat: Southwestern Madagascar
- Dry open deciduous forest
  - Average length is five feet but some grow up to eight feet in length
  - Endangered species since 1977 due to habitat destruction
  - Beautiful patterns help it hide from its prey and its enemies.

Boa, Madagascar Tree
Where in the Zoo? Treetops in Africa
Scientific Name: *Sanzinia madagascariensis*
Range & Habitat: Lives throughout the island of Madagascar
- In forests, from lowland tropical and dry forests to humid upland forests
  - Young are born about 10 inches long and are red in color. They gradually change to their adult coloring throughout their first year
  - Endangered species since 1977 due to habitat destruction
  - Beautiful patterns help it hide from its prey and its enemies.
**Gecko, New Caledonia Giant**
Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building
Scientific Name:  *Rhacodactylus leachianus*
Range & Habitat:  New Caledonia (island off East coast of Australia)
- Forests and mountains of New Caledonia
- Able to lose and regenerate tail to escape predators
- World’s largest gecko, with a body length of up to 9.5 inches

**Gecko, Standing’s Day**
Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building
Scientific Name:  *Phelsuma standing*
Range & Habitat:  Madagascar
- Tropical dry forest
- Communicate with a range of squeaks, clicks, and croaks sounding more like a frog
- Vulnerable due to habitat destruction
- Adhesive’ toes allow geckos to climb vertically on any surface, even if it is smooth.
Gila Monster

Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building

Scientific Name: Heloderma suspectum suspectum

Range & Habitat: Southwestern United States and N. Mexico
Desert scrub, arid grasslands, dry juniper oak woodlands

♦ 95% of the Gila monster's life is spent underground
♦ Population is suffering due to loss of habitat by agriculture and pet trade
J Venom from glands in lower jaws flows into the wound as it chews on victim
Lizard, Beaded
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: Heloderma horridum exasperatum
Range & Habitat: Mexico along Pacific Coast
Sub humid tropics to arid areas
♦ One of only two types of poisonous lizards contain venom glands in the lower jaw
♦ Endangered due to habitat destruction and over collection
J Stores fat in its tail to live off of when food is scarce.

Milksnake, Pueblan
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: Lampropeltis triangulum campbelli
Range & Habitat: Mexico to Southern Texas
Open arid areas
♦ Able to eat other snakes including venomous snakes
♦ Named for the old-wives tail that they milk cows
J Among the most beneficial of snakes because they eat mice and rats
**Python, Green Tree**

Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building
Scientific Name:  *Chondropython viridis*
Range & Habitat:  Northern Australia, New Guinea and Surrounding Islands
Tropical rainforests, secondary growth, bamboo thickets

♦ Both sexes have spurs; claw like structures on the sides of the vent
♦ Young are born a different color (usually yellow) and change to green as they grow up
♦ There are no specific threats to this species

Well known for “caudal luring” (sitting on a branch dangling the tail until prey becomes curious and then the snake strikes)

**Python, Spotted**

Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building
Scientific Name:  *Antaresia maculosa*
Range & Habitat:  East Coast of Queensland in Australia and Islands
Dry, wet forests, cane fields, rocky outcroppings

♦ Spotted python sometimes confused with closely related Children’s python
♦ Pattern mutation of tiny dark speckles

Sometimes found around human dwellings because they are docile and eat rats
Skinks, Prehensile-tailed

Where in the Zoo?  Conservation Center
Scientific Name:  *Corucia zebrata*
Range & Habitat:  Solomon Islands near Australia
                 Tropical rainforests
- Spend little or no time on the ground, usually found in the oldest trees of the primary forest
- Not threatened
- Have long prehensile tails that help them climb
- Can drop their tail to escape predators but unlike other lizards they do not grow back
Tortoise, Aldabra
Where in the Zoo?  Africa
Scientific Name:  Geochelone gigantean
Zoo Name:  George
Range & Habitat:  Coral tip of Aldabra between the coast of Kenya and N. Madagascar, introduced to Seychelles island to save the species from extinction
Scrubland near water holes
♦  Life Expectancy is 100 -200 years
♦  Tortoises pick up their entire shell when they walk, while turtles drag the back of their shell
♦  Vulnerable but protection has increased numbers
J  The tortoise is extremely slow moving and can grow to weigh up to 600 pounds

Tortoise, Galapagos
Where in the Zoo?  Asian Trail
Scientific Name:  Geochelone elephantopus
Range & Habitat:  Galapagos Islands
Driest and flattest parts of the islands with succulent plants
♦  Can grow to be 500 pounds on larger islands
♦  The Galapagos Tortoise is an endangered species
J  Life expectancy is 100 to 200 years
**Tortoise, Pancake**  
Where in the Zoo?  Treetops in Africa  
Scientific Name:  *Malacochersus tornieri*  
Range & Habitat:  Southern Kenya, Northern and Eastern Tanzania  
Arid scrub and savannah at altitudes from 100’ to 6000’ feet  
♦ Flexible shell moves in and out as they breath  
♦ Very quick for a tortoise and hide in rock crevices to escape predators  
♦ Spiky legs lock the Pancake tortoise into place once inside a crevice

**Tortoise, Red-footed**  
Where in the Zoo?  Tropics Building  
Scientific Name:  *Geochelone carbonaria*  
Range & Habitat:  Tropical lowlands of South America  
Forests and savannas  
♦ Males identify each other by a characteristic head movement  
♦ Red-footed tortoise is abundant due to their ability to adapt to cleared land  
♦ During mating season, males head becomes bright red
Turtle, Alligator Snapping
Where in the Zoo? Tropics Building
Scientific Name: Macrolemys temminckii
Region & Habitat: Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas
Deep water of large rivers, canals, lakes, swamps, hatchlings and juveniles live in small streams
- Looks primitive, “dinosaur of the turtle world”
- Submerge for forty to fifty minutes before surfacing
- Main threat is humans who collect them for unique appearance or meat
J Pink lure-like structure in the back of their mouth wiggles to attract small fish in to be eaten

Turtle, Spotted
Where in the Zoo? Conservation Center
Scientific Name: Clemmys guttata
Range & Habitat: Southern coast of Maine along East coast to Georgia and S. Ontario west to Illinois Marshy meadows, bogs, swamps, ponds, ditches, or small bodies of water
- Submerge and spend the night on the pond bottom
- Endangered in Illinois and Ohio, threatened in Maine and Vermont due to habitat destruction and pet collecting
J Commonly called the “Polka-dot turtle”
Application of State Standards to Your Self-Guided Tour

Several of the State education standards may be met by using the self-guide teacher's manual. In addition, several other education goals can be met with pre-visit and post-visit classroom activities.

♦ State Goal # 1: Read with understanding and fluency
  • A. Apply word analysis and vocabulary skills to comprehend selections
  • B. Apply reading strategies to improve understanding and Fluency

♦ State Goal # 4: Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations
  • A. Listen effectively in formal and informal situations

♦ State Goal # 5: Use the language arts to acquire, assess and Communicate information.
  • A. Locate, organize, and use information from various sources to answer questions, solve problems, and communicate ideas.

♦ State Goal # 6: Demonstrate and apply a knowledge and sense of numbers, including numeration and operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division), patterns, ratios and proportions.
  • B. Investigate, represent and solve problems using number facts, operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) and their properties, algorithms and relationships.
  • C. Compute and estimate using mental mathematics, paper-and-pencil methods, calculators and computers.
State Standards Continued

♦ State Goal # 11: Understand the processes of scientific inquiry and technological design to investigate questions, conduct experiments, and solve problems.
  • A. Know and apply the concepts, principles, and processes of scientific inquiry.

♦ State Goal # 12: Understand the fundamental concepts, principles, and interconnection of the life, physical and earth/space sciences.
  • A. Know and apply the concepts that explain how living things function, adapt and change.
  • B. Know and apply concepts that describe how living things interact with each other and with their environment.
  • E. Know and apply concepts that describe the features and processes of the Earth and its resources.

♦ State Goal # 13: Understand the relationships among science technology and society in historical and contemporary contexts.
  • A. Know and apply the accepted practices of science.
  • B. Know and apply concepts that describe the interaction between science, technology and society.
Pre/Post Educational Activity Ideas

Warning

• Discuss why some animals have warning colors instead of trying to camouflage themselves.
• Ask students to watch for warning colors they find in everyday life.
• Ask students to write a short essay discussing all of the warning colors they discovered and why they are used.
• You may also ask your class to vote on a unified warning color to wear for their trip to the zoo to aid in keeping your students together and easily identifiable as a group.

Create your Own

• Have students draw an animal (real or created) that lives in an extreme environment (deserts, arctic).
• Then have students label or present adaptations and explain how the animal uses them to survive.

IL. Education Standards: 4.B.2a; 5.A.2a-b; 5.B.2a-b; 5.C.2a-b; 17.B.2b; 26.B.2d; 5.A.3a; 5.B.3a-b; 5.C.3a-c; 17.B.3b; 26.B.3d
**Food Chain**

- Materials needed: strips of paper approximately 8" long,
- Markers/crayons, tape of glue
- Student write down on the strips of paper the names of things they might find in a food chain. (i.e. sun, plant, insect, mosquito, bat)
- Working alone or in pairs, ask students to fasten the strips of paper together in a chain form in the order the food chain would occur.
- Ask students to explain their food chain and then display in the classroom.

IL Education Standards: 4.A.1a-b-c; 4.B.1a-b; 12.B.1b; 26.B.1d

**Scavenger Hunt**

- Design a scavenger hunt of adaptations (i.e. webbed feet, striped fur, sharp claws, wings, scales etc.)
- See back pages for a scavenger hunt you can adapt for your students
- Have students bring the sheet to the Peoria Zoo on their field trip to identify animals with the adaptations.


**Who’s Who**

- Ask students to bring in one or two small stuffed animals from home, or use small plastic animals.
- Present and discuss with students they different types of covering animals have (scales, fur, feathers)
- Ask students to separate animals into groups and discuss why each animal belongs to that particular group.

IL. Educations Standards: 4.A.1a,b,c,d; 4.B.1b; 11.A.1e; 12.A.1b;
We Would Love To Hear From You

Following your visit to the Peoria Zoo we encourage teachers and students to write us with questions or thoughts. All correspondence may be addressed to:

Peoria Zoo
Education Department
2320 N. Prospect Ave.
Peoria, IL 61603
What monkey uses its tail to swing through the trees and hang upside down?

Name a lizard that uses color to hide.

Meerkats have something under their eyes to help keep the bright sun out. What is it?

What bug uses a stinger to defend itself?

Which black and white monkey uses its loud voice to warn others of danger (you may have heard them at the zoo)

Name one of the two venomous lizards in the world.

Which is the only mammal that can fly and which part of its body does it use to hang upside down?

How does a porcupine protect itself? What color are the porcupines in the zoo?

How does a tarantula defend itself?

Find an animal that has a shell for protection. What other animals does it live with?

What is a rhinoceros horn made of?

How many vertebrae does a giraffe have?

Belching is considered polite in what animal family?

What is the largest animal (in weight) at the Zoo?

What male bird seals the female in a tree with the eggs and keeps her there until the young are ready to fledge?

What is the largest naturally occurring big cat in the world?

What amphibian communicates by waving its arms rather than by sound?

How does a vinegaroon defend itself?

These birds are called the bushman’s clock because they make the most noise at dawn and dusk.

What animal has an 18 inch tongue?
What monkey uses its tail to swing through the trees and hang upside down? **Spider Monkey**

Name a lizard that uses color to hide. **Prehensile-tail skink/New Caledonian gecko**

Meerkats have something under their eyes to help keep the bright sun out. What is it? **Black stripes—they help reflect the sun and block it from their eyes**

What bug uses a stinger to defend itself? **Emperor Scorpion**

Which black and white monkey uses its loud voice to warn others of danger (you may have heard them at the zoo) **Black and White Ruffed Lemur**

Name one of the two venomous lizards in the world. **Mexican Beaded Lizard or Gila Monster**

Which is the only mammal that can fly and which part of its body does it use to hang upside down? **Bat—uses their feet**

How does a porcupine protect itself? What color are the porcupines in the zoo? **Porcupines use quills—they are black and white to stand out so no one bothers them**

How does a tarantula defend itself? **It flicks the hairs off its back, which is an irritant to distract the predator long enough for the tarantula to get away.**

Find an animal that has a shell for protection. What other animals does it live with? **The Red Footed Tortoise lives with the iguana and boas and the aldabra tortoise lives with the porcupines**

What is a rhinoceros horn made of? **Keratin or tightly compacted hair**

How many vertebrae does a giraffe have? **7, the same number as humans**

Belching is considered a polite way to greet each other in what animal family? **Colobus Monkey**

What is the largest animal (in weight) at the Zoo? **White Rhinoceros—a full grown male can weigh up to 6000 pounds**

What male bird seals the female in a tree with the eggs and keeps her there until the young are ready to fledge? **Blythe’s Hornbill**

What is the largest naturally occurring big cat in the world? **Amur Tiger**

What amphibian communicates by waving its arms rather than by sound? **Golden Frog**

How does a vinegaroon defend itself? **Sprays a vinegar type liquid at its predators.**

These birds are called the bushman’s clock because they make the most noise at dawn and dusk. **Kookaburras.**

What animal has an 18 inch tongue? **Giraffe**