

Field Trip Teaching Guide: We're All Animals

Instead of giving each child a worksheet, chaperones can use these guides to help focus and engage very young children in the exciting zoo environment. This guide covers some of the more active exhibits, and the ones that are most attractive to children, but questions can be adapted to any exhibit. Information in *italics* is background information for the chaperone.

This guide addresses the following K-4 New Mexico education standards.

SCIENCE

Strand 1: Scientific Thinking; Standard 1: Understand process of scientific investigations.

- Benchmark 1: Use scientific methods to observe, collect, record, analyze, predict, interpret and determine reasonableness of data.
- Benchmark 2: Use scientific thinking and knowledge and communicate findings.
- Benchmark 3: Use mathematical skills and vocabulary to analyze data, understand patterns and relationships and communicate findings.

Strand 2: Content of Science; Standard II: Life Science

- Benchmark 1: Living things have diverse forms, structures, functions and habitats.
- Benchmark 2: Living things have similarities and differences and change over time.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Strand 2: Geography

- Benchmark II-B: Distinguish between natural and human characteristics of places and use this knowledge to define regions, their relationships with other regions, and patterns of change.
- Benchmark II-C: Be familiar with aspects of human behavior and man-made and natural environments in order to recognize their impact on the past and present.
- Benchmark II-F: Describe how natural and man-made changes affect the meaning, use, distribution and value of resources.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Strand: Reading and Listening for Comprehension

Standard 1: Comprehend information that is read, heard and viewed

- Benchmark 1-A: Listen to, read, react to, and retell information
- Benchmark 1-B: Locate and use a variety of resources to acquire information.
- Benchmark 1-C: Demonstrate critical thinking skills

MATHEMATICS

Standard 2: Understand algebraic concepts and applications

- Benchmark 1: Understand patterns, relations and functions.

Standard 4: Understand measurement systems and applications

- Benchmark 1: Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems and process of measurement.

Standard 5: Understand how to formulate questions, analyze data and determine probabilities.

- Benchmark 1: Formulate questions that can be addressed with data and collect, organize and display relevant data to answer them.

Flamingos



Are the flamingos taller, shorter or about the same height as you? (*Flamingos are $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet tall*)

Flamingos are covered with feathers and their bones, like all bird bones, are hollow. Do you think they are heavier or lighter than you? (*Flamingos weigh about 6 - 9 pounds*).

A flamingo uses its beak to eat food and drink water, just like you use your

_____.

Can you see a flamingo nest (*hint: they make their nests from mud*).

Name all the colors you see on a flamingo.

What kind of noises are the flamingos making? Can you imitate them? Do you think they can understand each other? What do you think they are saying?

The Primates – Monkeying around

These are eight different kinds of primates at the zoo: lemurs, lorises, capuchin monkeys, emperor tamarins, siamangs, orangutans, gorillas and chimps. Substitute the name of the animal for the word 'primate' in each of these questions.

Watch the primates for a while. What are they doing?

- Sitting
- Running
- Grooming (picking at each other)
- Playing with Each Other
- Playing with Things in their Enclosures
- Arguing
- Lying Down
- Sleeping
- Pooping
- Eating
- Scratching
- Looking at you!



Can you pick out the Papa primate? He is usually the biggest one. Are there any babies?

How do the primates move? Do they walk on all fours, swing from branches or both?

Can they grab things with their feet? Can you grab things with your feet?

Do they have a thumb on their hands? Do they have a 'thumb' on their feet?
Where are your thumbs?

Do they have a tail? (*not all primates do*)

ELEPHANTS

Elephants are the biggest animals that live on land. They live in Africa, in big herds led by the oldest mother elephant. Elephants are very smart and take good care of each other.



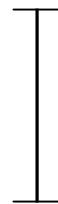
Can you guess why the elephants are flapping their ears? (*keep cool, keep away bugs*)
Do you think the elephant's ear is big enough to wrap around you?

The elephant's trunk is a big nose that is also like a hand. Which of these things do you see the elephant using its trunk for?

- sweeping up food
- sucking up water
- making noise
- playing or wrestling with other elephants

Put your hands side by side. That is the size of one elephant tooth!

Here is how thick elephant skin is:



And here how thick your skin is: 

That is why the fancy name scientists have for elephants - 'pachyderm'
- means thick skin!

DUCK POND

The duck pond is home to ducks that stay here all year, and some that come here just for the winter or summer. *Please do not let the children chase or kick or harass the ducks.*



Look at the ducks' feet. What is special about them? (*webbed*)

Can you see their toes? How many do they have?
How many toes do you have?

Are the ducks afraid of people? What if the people have food?

Watch how the ducks walk. Can you imitate the way they walk?

Ducks live in water, but they still clean their feathers, which is called 'preening'. Can you spot a duck who is preening?



Sometimes ducks raise out of water and flap their wings hard. What do you think they are saying to other ducks? (*annoyance, defending space, just shaking off wings*)

Do all ducks look the same? See how many kinds of ducks you can find.

What else is in the pond?

Seals and Sea Lions

The seals and sea lions are nearly always in motion, having fun. They are known for their intelligence and lively interaction with humans.

Look at the seals and sea lions swimming. Seals wave their back flippers side-to-side while sea lions use their front flippers to move through water. Can you tell who is who? (*Hint: they are also different colors*)

Who do you see more on the rocks - seals or sea lions (*sea lions can move around better on the rocks*)



How do you think seals and sea lions scratch themselves (*hint - look at the end of their flippers for nails*)

Seals and sea lions are holding their breath while they swim underwater. Can you hold your breath for as long as they can?

Seals and sea lions use their whiskers to 'touch' their way through water and find fish. What part of you do you use the most

to touch things with?