

Inclusive Education

Teaching and Learning Resource

Introduction

Melbourne Zoo's flexible Inclusive Learning program offers a unique experience for students to engage with animals and take on personal challenges to discover more about our world.

Depending on the needs of your students, there are two learning spaces available. Both spaces are wheelchair accessible and have the opportunity for an animal encounter.

Growing Wild

In the Growing Wild learning space, students can become active explorers in the garden. Learn about how we can care for animals and their needs. The sights, sounds, smells and immersive environment of the play-based garden allows for student choice and hand-on self-paced discovery of living things. Students are encouraged to emotionally connect with, develop empathy and respect for animals and nature. Recommended for students up to Level 3 ability.

DigestED

The DigestED learning space allows students to build independence, challenge themselves and learn how to care for all wildlife. Students will have access to a number of biological artefacts to allow students to connect, compare and problem solve. The lions will be watching the students while they solve inquiry-based problems and learn about their impacts on animal species in the wild. Recommended for students above Level 3 ability.

We have the ability to support students with:

Disabilities (Physical, Learning, Visual, Auditory)

Additional Learning Needs (Autism Spectrum, Emotional and Behavioural Disorders)

English as an Additional Language (refugees, recently arrived migrants, Adult Learners)

The program addresses the needs of students through:

Adaptive teacher-led activities

Creating opportunities for student-led exploration, and the chance to learn about the needs of animals and how we can care for them

Information is presented both orally and visually to accommodate both students with visual or auditory impairments in addition to students with various learning preferences.



The Melbourne Zoo Learning Experiences Team, respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri People, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, live and learn. We recognise their continuing connection to land, water and wildlife and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.





Onsite Activities

Activity	Time & Location
<p>Educator-led Workshop The focus of the session will be developed in consultation with the classroom teacher and Melbourne Zoo Education Officer.</p>	<p>Digest Ed Learning Space OR Growing Wild This workshop will be held in either the Digest Ed Learning Space OR Growing Wild (refer to your Booking Confirmation). This space is contained and not shared with the public.</p>
<p>Independent Time Time to explore around the zoo!</p>	<p>Information for Keeper Talks can be found here; https://www.zoo.org.au/melbourne/whats-on/meet-the-keeper</p>
<p>Support Materials Support materials have been developed to help students prepare for their visit and have a positive experience at Melbourne Zoo.</p>	<p>Sensory Map - https://www.zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Sensory%20Map%202018.jpg Social Script: Animals at Melbourne Zoo - http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Animals%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo_0.pptx Social Script: Education Session at Melbourne Zoo - http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Education%20Session%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo.pptx Social Script: Excursion at Melbourne Zoo - http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Excursion%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo.pptx</p>

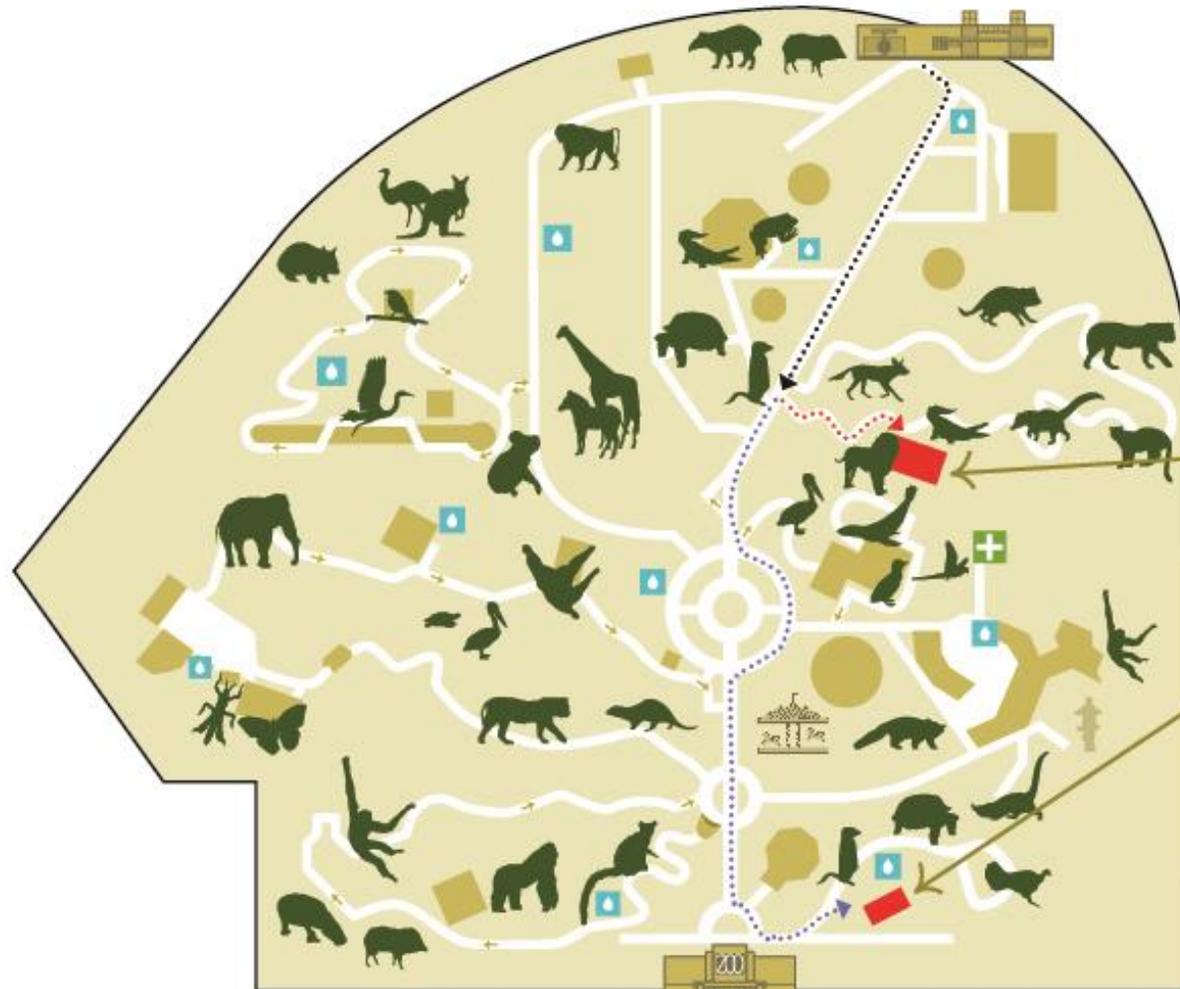
Please note:

If you arrive after your scheduled education session time we may be unable to accommodate your students, due to scheduling restrictions. In this event your education program may be cancelled.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

at Melbourne Zoo

STUDENT ENTRANCE



WORKSHOP
LOCATION
DIGEST-ED

WORKSHOP
LOCATION
GROWING WILD



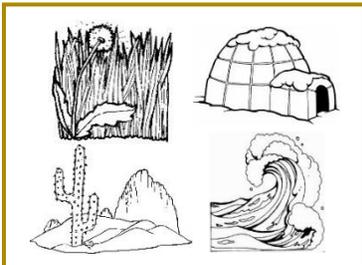
MAIN ENTRANCE



Pre-Excursion Activity

Recipe for a Healthy Habitat

Introduce students to the survival needs of animals by following the procedure card to build a healthy habitat. You might ask students to draw or build using materials available in their classroom.



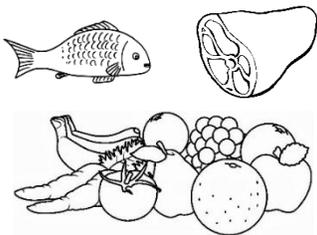
Base



Water



Shelter



Food

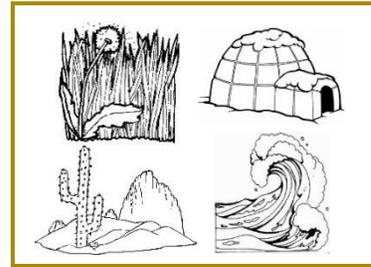


Animal

Recipe for a Healthy Habitat

Step 1:

Select the **base** for your habitat. You might choose grassland, desert, snow or ocean.



Step 2:

Add **water** in your habitat. Animals need this to drink.



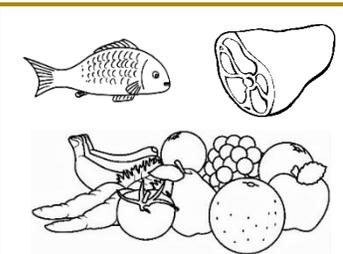
Step 3:

Select some **shelter** for your habitat. This helps the animals to hide and feel safe.



Step 4:

Place **food** for the animals in your habitat. Animals need to eat to grow and be strong.



Step 5:

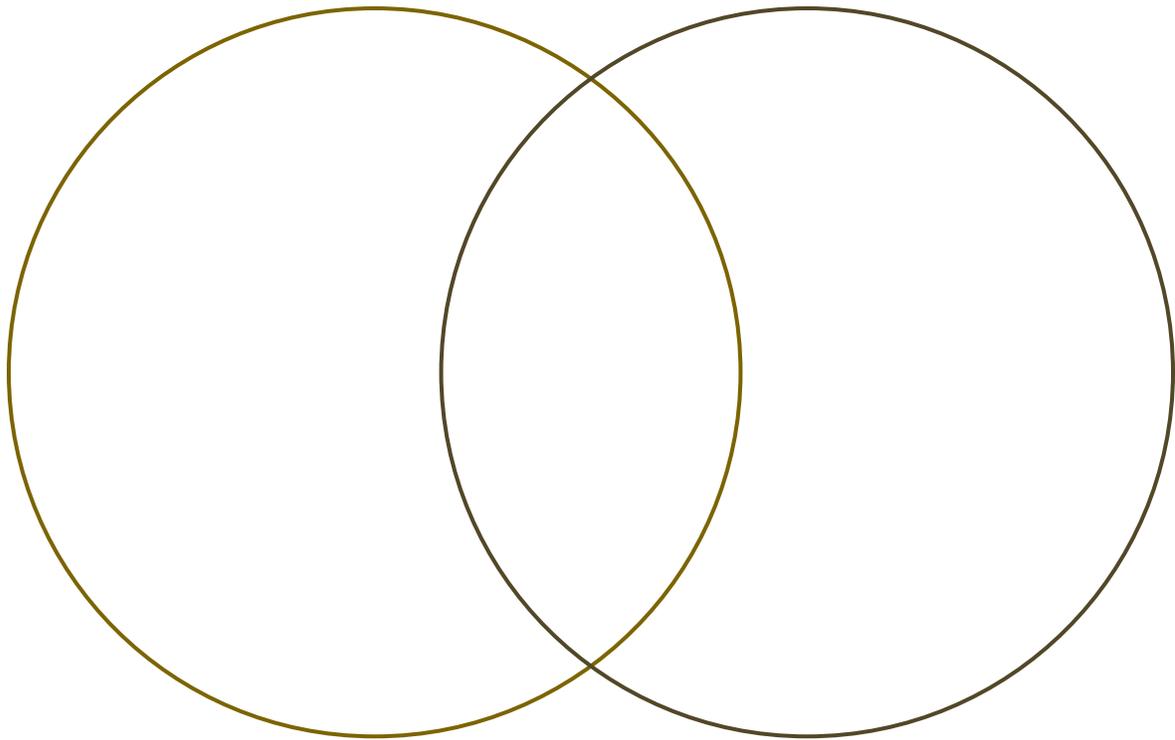
Lastly, choose the **animals** for your habitat. Make sure they have **friends** to keep them company.



Your habitat is complete. The animals should be happy and healthy.

Creature Features

Living things inhabit different places and have adapted their features to enable them to survive in a range of habitats. Create a Venn diagram to compare and contrast the features of humans and one of our special zoo animals. Go to <https://www.zoo.org.au/animals> for further information. Encourage students to share their understandings with a peer.



Here are some animal features to start you off;

Fur
Feathers
Skin
Scales
Shell
Claws

Two Legs
Four Legs
Eight legs
Feet
Wings
Tail

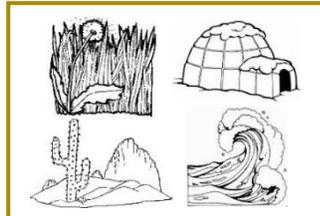
Herbivore (Plant eating)
Carnivore (Animal Eating)
Omnivore (Plant and Animal Eating)
Beak
Teeth

Onsite Activity

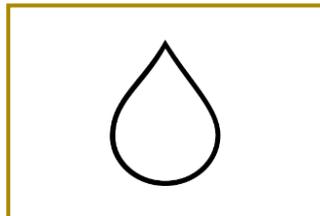
Choose a species at the Zoo and identify the healthy habitat features that they have.



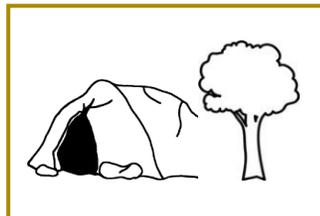
What is the animal?



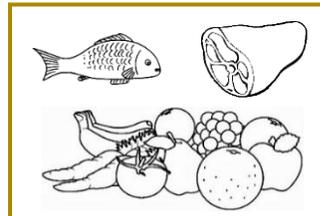
What is the base of the habitat?



How does the animal get water?



What does the animal use for shelter?



What food does the animal eat?

Describe or draw what the animal looks like.

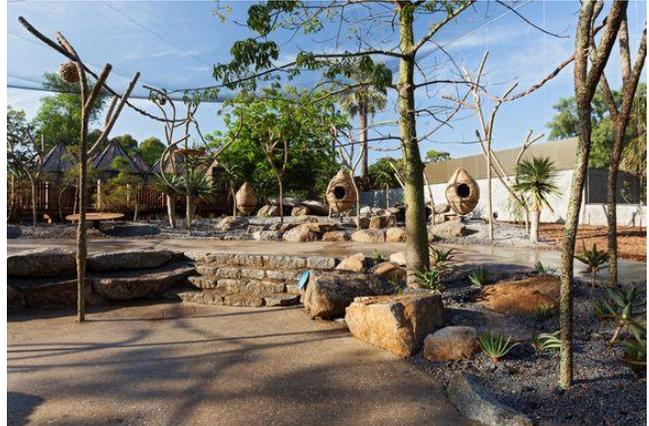
Where in the Zoo?

Find the animal homes (enclosures) pictured below and write what animal lives there.

Figure 1: Image by Cormac Hanrahan



Animal:



Animal:



Animal:



Animal:



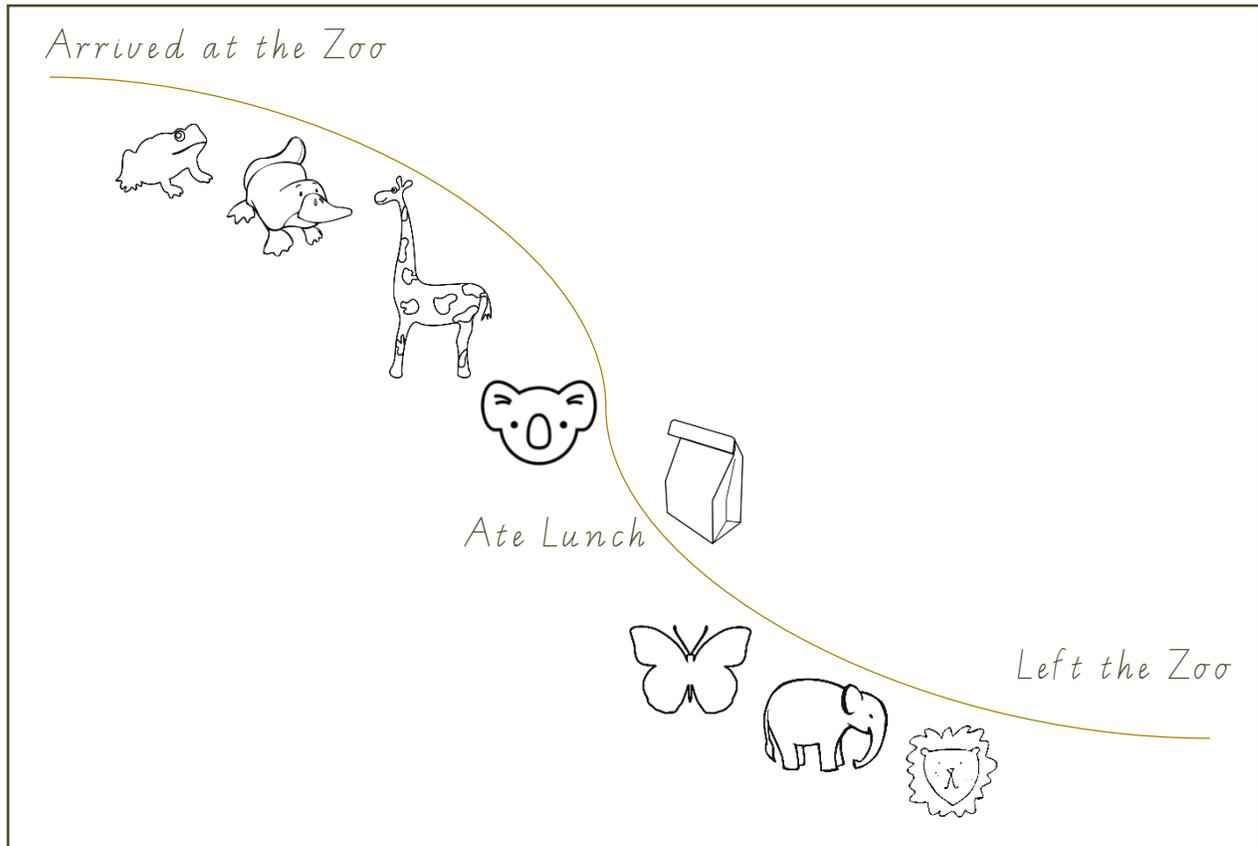
Circle your favourite animal home.

I chose my favourite enclosure because:

Post-visit Activity

Mental Map

Having the students reflect on their day by drawing, and annotating, a mental map of the excursion to Melbourne Zoo. This can be completed in a timeline format, or a path showing how they moved around the zoo.





Additional Resources

Zoos Victoria

- Animals at Zoos Victoria
<http://www.zoo.org.au/animals>
- Melbourne Zoo Sensory Map
<https://www.zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Sensory%20Map%202018.jpg>
- Social Script: Animals at Melbourne Zoo -
http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Animals%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo_0.pptx
- Social Script: Education Session at Melbourne Zoo -
<http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Education%20Session%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo.pptx>
- Social Script: Excursion at Melbourne Zoo -
<http://zoo.org.au/sites/default/files/Excursion%20at%20Melbourne%20Zoo.pptx>

Websites

- Cool Australia
<http://www.coolaustralia.org/>
- National Geographic
<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>
- Museum Victoria's Field Guide to Victorian Fauna
<http://museumvictoria.com.au/discoverycentre/mv-field-guide-app/>

Videos

- Sticky - Award winning animated short film about the Lord Howe Island Stick Insect
<https://vimeo.com/76647062>
- Lord Howe Island Stick Insect Hatching
<https://vimeo.com/14413689>

Music

- The Animal Boogie
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25_u1GzruQM
- At the Zoo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oV_idfKcCdQ
- If you go into the Bush
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsO_XLmInIM
- Sustainable Earth Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu1rwwKVlh0>