



ZOO TREK: PROTECTING WILDLIFE

TEACHER OVERVIEW

Welcome to the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore! This Zoo Trek is one in a series of themed self-guided tours prepared for your students by the Zoo's Education Department. The Conservation Zoo Trek highlights the following species and exhibits:

Polar bear
African penguin
White rhino

African elephant
Panamanian golden
frog

Chimpanzee
Okapi
Hellbender

BACKGROUND ON CONSERVATION AND ZOOS

The term *conservation* appears in many different contexts, from using resources such as water and energy wisely, to restoring and preserving historical buildings and works of art. In the context of the diversity of living things on Earth—or *biodiversity*—conservation is about protecting species and their habitats. Conservation involves any activities that substantially enhance the survival of species and habitats, whether in nature or outside the natural habitat (*adapted from the definition of the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums*). For modern accredited zoos and aquariums, such as The Maryland Zoo, conservation is a primary part of their missions. In addition to breeding endangered species, educating guests about animals and habitats, and inspiring and facilitating conservation actions, these zoos support with funding and expertise projects working to benefit species, habitats, and local people around the world.

For more information about conservation efforts at accredited zoos and aquariums, you may wish to visit the follow resources:

- The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore <http://www.marylandzoo.org/animals-conservation/conservation/>
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums <https://www.aza.org/conservation/>
- World Association of Zoos and Aquariums <http://www.waza.org/en/site/conservation>
- Wildlife Conservation Society <http://www.wcs.org/>

HOW TO USE THE ZOO TREK

Print at least one copy of the *Zoo Trek* for each group. Encourage students to read the materials for each featured species and to engage in discussion with others in their group. Point out that the goal is not necessarily to always find the “right” answer, but to practice the skills of observation, questioning, and analyzing. You can use the **Discuss!** questions back in your classroom to facilitate continuing conversations with students or as jumping off points for student essays and independent projects.

Please keep in mind that every day is different at the Zoo. Some animals may be off exhibit during your visit.

CURRICULUM CORRELATIONS

Participation in the *Protecting Wildlife Zoo Trek* supports the Next Generation Science Standards (DCIs) and Maryland College and Career-Ready Standards listed below. Because conservation of species and habitats is inherently an interdisciplinary endeavor, this *Zoo Trek* also complements social studies topics including world cultures, economics, human geography, psychology, and government.

Grades 6–8	Grades 9–12
LS1.B LS2.A LS2.C LS4.C LS4.D ESS3.A ESS3.C WHST.6–8.8 WHST.6–8.9 SL.8.1	LS1.B LS2.A LS2.C LS4.C LS4.D ESS3.A ESS3.C ESS3.D ETS1.B WHST.9–12.9
Science and Engineering Practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions	Science and Engineering Practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
Crosscutting Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cause and EffectStability and ChangeSystems and System ModelsStructure and Function	Crosscutting Concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cause and EffectStability and ChangeScale, Proportion, and QuantitySystems and System ModelsStructure and Function