

MARYLAND ZOO

ZooTrek : Habitats

Grades 3–5



HOW TO USE THE ZOO TREK

Use the animals and exhibits highlighted in this *Zoo Trek* to help guide you on your visit through The Maryland Zoo.

1. Find the highlighted species on the Zoo Map to help you plan your route. You do not need to follow the *Zoo Trek* in a particular order.
2. At the exhibit for each featured species, read through the *Zoo Trek* information. Take turns reading the questions aloud, and talk about your answers with your class mates.
Remember, there may not always be one “right” answer!
3. Many of the animals are well camouflaged! **The Viewing Tips** can help you find them in the exhibits.
4. Use the **Explore Some More** hints to learn about other amazing animals!

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

Chaperones, please keep your group together and supervise the students at all times.

START YOUR TREK!

POLAR BEAR

Observe

This exhibit was made to look like the tundra. Polar bears spend part of the year in the tundra. In winter, the tundra is very cold and snowy, but in summer, the tundra has grasses and wildflowers!



Viewing Tip

Go in the Tundra Buggy for a great view over the two yards.



Explore Some More

Can you find another animal that has thick fur to keep warm in its habitat?



Think About It

Can you find a spot in the polar bear habitat where the bear can:

- o Dig?
- o Sit in the shade?
- o Get a drink?
- o Curl up for a nap?



PENGUIN COAST

Some kinds of penguins live where it is snowy and icy, but not African penguins! Where they live, the weather is warm.

Observe

Are more of the penguins in the water or on land?

African penguins spend a lot of time swimming in the wild, but they do also spend time on land. They have to lay their eggs on land where the eggs can stay warm and dry.

Think About It

Most birds have lightweight bones that make them light enough to fly. Penguins have heavier, solid bones.

How do you think heavier bones would be helpful for living in an ocean habitat?

LEOPARD'S LAIR

Leopards are great climbers! They hang their food high up on tree branches to keep it away from other animals.

Observe

Do the leopard's spots help the animal blend in with the habitat or stand out?

Think About It

How does blending in help a predator?

Viewing Tip

Go inside the Penguin Education Center for the underwater viewing window.



Explore Some More

Look for the cormorants, the dark brown birds that share Penguin Coast with the penguins. Unlike penguins, cormorants can swim AND fly!



Viewing Tip

Like most cats, leopards like to sleep a lot! Some of our leopard's favorite places to rest are in the far left corner of the exhibit, behind the tree, or on top of the rocks.



Explore Some More

See if you can find an animal nearby that would be *prey* for a leopard.



AFRICAN WATERING HOLE

A watering hole is an important part of the habitat for many different kinds of animals.



Observe

This exhibit represents part of a savanna grassland.

How is the savanna different from a rainforest?

How is it different from a desert?

Think About It

Do you think these animals are herbivores or carnivores?



Viewing Tip

The zebras can be very shy, so sometimes they run back inside. If you don't see them the first time, check again on your way back.



Explore Some More

The Zoo has many animals in other exhibits that live in a savanna habitat. See if you can find a savanna predator at the Zoo. Also look for another savanna animal today that has big ears and a long trunk!



WARTHOG BURROW

Warthogs don't really have warts! They get that name from the large bumps on their faces. The bumps help protect their eyes if they fight with another warthog.

Observe

Mud is an important part of the warthog's habitat. Warthogs cover their bodies in mud by wallowing. The mud protects the warthog's skin from bugs and the sun.

Think About It

When it feels afraid, a warthog will back itself into a burrow like the ones you see here in the yard.

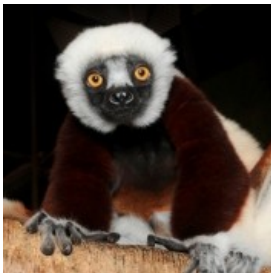
Why do you think the warthog backs into a burrow with its head facing out?

LEMUR LANE

A sifaka (pronounced she-FAHK) is a type of lemur. They live in forests in the country of Madagascar.

Observe

Sifakas move by leaping from tree to tree or along the ground. Watch our lemurs move through their exhibit or snap the QR code to see leaping lemurs!



Viewing Tip

The warthog often has access to go back inside. If you missed her, be sure to check the yard again on your way back.



Explore Some More

Visit the Zoo's Farmyard to meet a warthog relative.



Think About It

Do you think it's faster to walk or to leap through the forest? Which would you rather do?

Viewing Tip

During cooler months, the sifakas are inside Chimp Forest. In late spring and summer, they are outside on Lemur Lane.



Explore Some More

Check out some relatives of lemurs in the Chimp Forest: chimpanzees and colobus monkeys.



HELLBENDER STREAM

Hellbenders are amphibians. Amphibians need to live in wet habitats for at least part of their lives.

Observe

There are two hellbenders in the exhibit.

Can you find both of them?

Think About It

How does looking like the rocks in a stream help a hellbender?

Viewing Tip

The hellbenders are well camouflaged against the rocky surfaces of their habitat. Look for wrinkled “rocks”—those wrinkles are the sides of the hellbender’s body!



Explore Some More

Look in The Cave for another kind of amphibian called a mudpuppy.



BOX TURTLE MEADOW

Why is it called a box turtle?

When this turtle feels afraid, it can close the bottom part of its shell like the lid of a box. Closing up like a box keeps predators out!

Observe

Box turtles like many different habitats. You may find one in a meadow like this one or in a wooded area with lots of leaves. *How does the color of the box turtle’s shell help it in its habitats?*

Think About It

Box turtles spend their whole lives very close to where they hatched. If someone removes a turtle from its habitat, the turtle will do anything to get back! *Why could it be harmful to remove a box turtle from its habitat?*

Viewing Tip

Scan the whole yard carefully, looking for flecks of yellow on the turtles’ shells.



Note: In winter the box turtles are off exhibit.

Explore Some More

Be sure to visit the large spur-thigh tortoises along the Boardwalk in *African Journey*.



THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE MARYLAND ZOO IN BALTIMORE!

What was your favorite animal today?