

MARYLAND ZOO

ZooTrek : Habitats

Grades K-2



SELF-GUIDED ZOO TREK: HABITATS, Gr. K-2

HOW TO USE THE ZOO TREK

Use the animals and exhibits highlighted in this *Zoo Trek* to help guide and focus the students on their journey through The Maryland Zoo.

1. Find the highlighted species on the Zoo Map to help you plan your route. The *Zoo Trek* does not need to be done in a particular order.
2. At the exhibit for each featured species, read through the *Zoo Trek* information with students. Pose to them the questions in italics, and encourage them to discuss their responses.
The goal is not always to find the “right” answer, but for students to practice the skills of observation and questioning.
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 guide your group to other amazing animals.

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

Please keep your group together and supervise the students at all times.

START YOUR TREK!

POLAR BEAR

Polar bears live on the tundra. In the winter, the tundra is very cold and snowy, but in the summer, the tundra has grasses and wildflowers!

Observe

Polar bears sleep a lot.

If you were the polar bear, where in the exhibit would you like to curl up for a nap?



Viewing Tip

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



Explore Some More

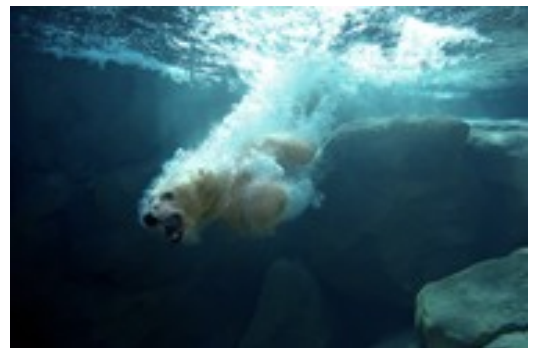
Can you find another animal that has thick fur to keep warm in its habitat?



Think About It

In the fall female (girl) polar bears dig dens in the snow to have their cubs. A den is a hole or cave where an animal can sleep or hide.

Do you think it is warmer inside a polar bear den or outside the den?



PENGUIN COAST

Some kinds of penguins live where it is snowy and icy, but not African penguins!

Observe

Are there more 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

If you were a penguin, would you want to live where it is cold or where it is warm?

Why?

Viewing Tip

You can watch the penguins from both the inside and outside the Penguin Education Center!



Explore Some More

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



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 make the animal hard to see or easy to see?

Think About It

Do you think it would be harder to see the leopard in a forest or in a desert?

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

Can you find another animal at the Zoo that has spots?



AFRICAN WATERING HOLE

The savanna is a grassland. There are few trees on the savanna. A watering hole is an important part of the savanna habitat for many different kinds of animals.



Observe

How many different kinds of animals do you see in the exhibit?

Rhinos and zebras are both types of mammals. Mammals are animals that have hair.

What are some other ways a rhino and a zebra are similar?

Think About It

Ostriches lay eggs in nests that they share with other ostriches.

Do you think the ostriches build their nests in trees or on the ground? Why?

A visitor to the savanna would see lots of different kinds of animals gather at the watering hole. Snap the QR code to see a few more of them!



Why do you think a watering hole is such an important place for many different kinds of animals?

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 one with sharp teeth and a mane. Look for another one today that has big ears and a long trunk!



WARTHOG

Warthogs don't really have warts! The bumps on their faces help protect their eyes if they fight with another warthog.

Observe

What kind of home do you see in the yard for the warthog?

Warthog homes are holes in the ground called burrows. Warthogs can hide in their burrows from other animals. A burrow also helps the warthog stay cool during the day and warm at night.

Think About It

Warthogs love to wallow in mud! Mud helps keep bugs away and protects their skin from the sun.

What are ways you can protect your skin from the sun?

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!



Think About It

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

Viewing Tip

The warthog often has access to go back inside. If you don't see her the first time, be sure to check the yard again on your way back.



Explore Some More

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



Viewing Tip

During cooler months, the sifakas are inside the Chimp Forest. In the 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

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

Observe

There are two hellbenders on the exhibit.

Can you find both of them?

Think About It

Hellbenders spend almost all of their time in the water.

What are some other animals that stay in the water all the time?

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

Box turtles like many different habitats, from a meadow like this one to wooded area with lots of leaves.

Observe

Is it easy or hard to see the turtles in their habitat?

Think About It

Sometimes people find box turtles near their homes.

If you find a box turtle, why do you think is it a good idea to leave it in its habitat?

Viewing Tip

Scan the whole yard. Look 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 spur-thigh tortoises in *African Journey*. Their habitat is very different from a box turtle’s habitat. *What differences can you find?*



THANK YOU FOR VISITING THE MARYLAND ZOO IN BALTIMORE!

What was your favorite animal today?