



MARYLAND ZOO

Scavenger Hunt:

Whose job is it anyway?



Welcome to The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore! The Zoo's mission is to inspire and educate people to join with it in the active conservation of wildlife and wild places. But meeting that mission takes more than just zookeepers caring for the animals! With this Scavenger Hunt you will learn about different jobs at the Zoo and how they are important.

HOW TO USE THIS SCAVENGER HUNT

1. Access the Zoo's interactive map on a group member's cell phone or other device: www.marylandzoo.org/interactive-map/
2. Read the Scavenger Hunt ***Find It!*** feature to direct you to another stop. (There is no specific order you must follow. Look at the map to plan your route.)
3. At each stop, read through ***Whose Job Is It?*** to learn about a related zoo career.
4. Write your answer to each ***Prove It!*** question to let your teacher know that you completed the entire activity.
5. You can do the Scavenger Hunt in any order. Completing your Scavenger Hunt should take about 90 minutes.

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 CAREER HUNT!

1



Find It!

Attend a Keeper Chat for the chance to talk to a zoo keeper. A list of keeper chats is available on the Zoo website:

www.marylandzoo.org/events/daily.

(Note: not every chat is held each day.)

Write the time and location here:

Plan Ahead!

Write a question that you would like to ask the keeper:

2



Find It!

Check out the signage around *Penguin Coast*. Find the sign about penguin feathers.

Prove It!

How many feathers per square inch does a penguin's body have?

Whose Job Is It?

All the signs, maps, banners, logos, and brochures at the Zoo were created by a **graphic designer**. These designers use color, word styles, artwork, and photos to communicate messages to visitors.

What Should I Study?

2-year degree

Graphic design

4-year degrees

Graphic design

Art

Other helpful subjects

Marketing

Communications

3



Find It!

Look for the door next to the slender-snouted crocodile exhibit. This door leads to an area behind the exhibit where keepers feed and care for the animals that live in this space.

Prove It!

How many different species live in the exhibit?

Whose Job Is It?

It's not just about feeding animals and scooping poop! **Zoo keepers** carefully monitor the well-being of the animals and seek to create experiences for the animals that allow them to use their natural behaviors.

What Should I Study?

4-year degrees

Biology/Zoology
Animal Science
Environmental Science
Psychology

Other training

Zoo internships

4



Find It!

Stop by *The Naturalist Lodge*. Sometimes there are educators or volunteers in this area. Be sure to pay them a visit.

Prove It!

What are four "features" of a Naturalist? (*Hint: Look for a sign.*)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Whose Job Is It?

Zoo educators help visitors of all ages learn how amazing animals are and how we can all help protect them and their habitats. They may teach classes, play learning games, lead tours, or talk to visitors.

Educators also help write text for signs. Graphic designers then use the text to make the sign attractive and easy to read for visitors.

What Should I Study?

4-year degrees

Biology/Zoology/Ecology
Animal Science
Environmental Science
Education
Psychology

5



Find It!

Find the okapi yard. Unlike giraffes, who live on open savannas, okapis are found in dense forests.

Prove It!

How did horticulturalists use plants to give the okapi some privacy from visitors?

Whose Job Is It?

Plants can be just as important as animals at the Zoo. Not only do plants make the grounds beautiful, but they help create exhibits that look and feel like the animals' natural habitats.

Horticulturalists take care of the plants at the Zoo from grasses to trees. They also design gardens that provide plants for some of the animals to eat or play with.

What Should I Study?

2-year degrees

Horticulture technology
Landscape design

4-year degrees

Horticulture
Biology/botany
Landscape architecture

6



Find It!

Find the exhibit that contains the Tundra Buggy.

Prove It!

What is one feature of the exhibit that is good for visitors?

What is one feature of the exhibit that is good for the animals?

Whose Job Is It?

When creating an exhibit, **exhibit designers** must consider the needs of three groups: animals, zoo staff, and visitors. In many cases, these groups have conflicting needs. But a good exhibit accounts for all of them.

What Should I Study?

4-year degrees

Art/architecture
Engineering

Advanced degrees

Architecture

7



Find It!

Look for an “Adopt Me!” sign on grounds.

Prove It!

What animal is pictured on the sign?

Whose Job Is It?

The Animal Adoption program helps the Zoo raise money to care for the Zoo’s animals and to support programs that help species in the wild. **Fundraisers** develop ideas like this one to help visitors enjoy their Zoo experience while also raising money to help the Zoo do its important work. Most zoo fundraisers enjoy working with people.

What Should I Study?

4-year degrees

Business/Marketing
Communications

Public relations
Business

8



Find It!

Find the small “stage” next to the mesh at the Chimp yard. Vet techs can work in an area like this one to draw blood from a chimp or to help perform an exam while remaining safely behind a barrier.

Prove It!

While you’re in the area, find a sign about chimp facial expressions. What does a chimp “grin” mean?

Whose Job Is It?

Vet techs are much like nurses for animals. They help take care of sick or injured animals and also spend a lot of time working in a lab. In the lab, they study samples of blood and even urine and feces (poop!) to monitor the health of the animals.

What Should I Study?

2-year degree

Veterinary Technology



Find It!

Find an AED station at the Zoo. An AED (Automated External Defibrillator) is an important first-aid tool for someone suffering from a sudden heart problem.

Prove It!

Where did you find it?

Whose Job Is It?

Security staff at the Zoo help enforce rules that keep everyone safe. They are also specially trained to help Zoo visitors who become ill or injured during their visit.

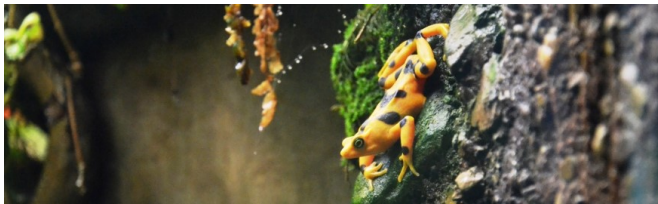
What Should I Study?

Certifications

First Aid/CPR

2-year degrees

Public safety
Security management
Emergency medical
technology



Find It!

Visit the Wild Things Gift Shop near the Main Gate.

Prove It!

What color shirts do staff members in the Zoo Gift Shop wear?

Whose Job Is It?

A **retail manager** decides what items to sell in the store and what price items will be. For a zoo store, a manager might choose to sell only things that were produced without harming the environment or that help raise money to protect wildlife.

What Should I Study?

2-year degrees

Retail sales
Business/marketing

4-year degrees

Retail management
Business/marketing
Merchandising

BONUS!

Find It!

Head over to the African Watering Hole exhibit.



Prove It!

Which careers do you think were involved in creating and maintaining the exhibit? Some of these jobs were not part of the scavenger hunt, but they are other important roles at the Zoo.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic designer | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail sales manager |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keeper | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary technician |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educator | <input type="checkbox"/> Exhibit designer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Horticulturist | <input type="checkbox"/> Security officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraiser | <input type="checkbox"/> Custodian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nutritionist | <input type="checkbox"/> Social media manager |

To learn more about Zoo careers, visit the Zoo and Wildlife Career FAQs webpage of the Smithsonian National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute:

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wildlife-careers>