

friends and family match

Draw a line to match each kind of animal with its group of family and friends.

Flamingo

Crash

Rhino

Flock

Giraffe

Colony

Lion

Herd

Monkey

Pride

Bat

Troop

zoo trek

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Grades
2-5

PRAIRIE DOG

In a prairie dog town, family groups live in neighborhoods of underground burrows. These family groups are called coterie. Members of a coterie share their burrows. Prairie dogs are very social, but a male will chase off neighbors that get too close to his territory!

LET'S TALK!

What kinds of things do you think a prairie dog might be trying to protect in his coterie's territory?

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

There is no "mayor" in a prairie dog town. But within a coterie, everyone takes turns being the lookout for danger.



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AFRICAN PENGUIN

A penguin colony is more like a large neighborhood than a family. Sometimes a pair of penguins may squabble with their neighbors over space on the beach. Ultimately, though, it is good to have everyone around.

LET'S TALK!

How do you think it can be helpful for penguins to have lots of neighbors?

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

No one!
There is no "head penguin."



BOBCAT

Some animals, like bobcats, don't live in groups at all—they are solitary. Solitary means they prefer to live alone. That's why we have only one bobcat in the yard at a time.

LET'S TALK!

Humans are definitely not a solitary species! But some people prefer more alone time than others. Are you more like a bobcat or like a chimp?

It can be stressful for members of a solitary species to live with another animal.



OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

MARYLAND ZOO

WELCOME TO THE ZOO

OPEN DAILY FROM 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

SCHAEFER PLAZA
LYN P. MEYERHOFF
MARYLAND WILDERNESS
THE HAROLD & SELMA TAYLOR
AFRICAN JOURNEY

ZOO CENTRAL

NORTHERN PASSAGE
HISTORIC MAIN VALLEY

MARYLAND WILDERNESS

At the Zoo we want to make sure animals live in the right kinds of groups.

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3

2

1

Walking Path

Shuttle Stop

Restrooms

Family Restroom

Wheelchair Accessible

Cafés

Parking

ATM

Gift Shop

Picnic Tables

Defibrillator

MAIN ENTRANCE EXIT

SCHAEFER PLAZA

NORTHERN PASSAGE

HISTORIC MAIN VALLEY

AFRICAN JOURNEY

ZOO CENTRAL

BOAT LAKE

WATERFOWL PAVILION (SPECIAL EVENTS)

LAKESIDE PAVILION

MANSION HOUSE (ZOO ADMIN.)

CELEBRATION HILL

EAGLE GATE

PARKING LOT C/BUS LOT

TO I-83

MEADOW

GOAT CORRAL

FARMYARD

MEETING BARN

TRAIN RIDE

FOOD COURT

CAVE

BOBCAT

OTTER

zoo trek

FRIENDS & FAMILY

CHIMPANZEE

Chimpanzees live in groups called troops. A troop isn't just one family. The troop has multiple adults plus all the young chimps. Every member of the troop has a rank, from top to bottom, and they all know their place. The high-ranking troop members generally get first choice of food, special treats, and places to nap.

LET'S TALK!

The highest ranking female chimp is typically the oldest. The highest-ranking male chimp is typically the strongest. Which system of ranking would you prefer?

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

The leader of the troop is the alpha male.

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

In an elephant herd, girls rule! The herd is a group of female relatives—sisters, aunts, cousins—and their young. When young males grow up, they leave the herd.

LET'S TALK!

How do you think living in the herd helps the females?

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

The leader of the herd is called the matriarch. She is commonly—but not always—the oldest elephant in the herd.



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