

talk like a zoo keeper

Here at the Zoo, we use a lot of special words to describe animals and their behaviors. How many of these can you find on signs throughout the Zoo?

Nocturnal: mostly awake and active at night

Diurnal: mostly awake and active during the day

Crepuscular: most active at dusk and dawn

Carnivore: animal that eats only meat

Herbivore: animal that eats only plants

Omnivore: animal that eats both plants and animals

Solitary: likes to live alone

Social: likes to live in groups

zoo trek

SMALL...

BUT MIGHTY!

Grades
3-5

PRAIRIE DOG

An entire prairie ecosystem depends on these small animals! The tunnels they dig keep the soil healthy. Some owls and snakes use the tunnels for protection. And the prairie dogs themselves are food for black-footed ferrets.

LET'S TALK!

Prairie dogs aren't really dogs! What animals do you think prairie dogs are related to?

GUARD "DOG"

Prairie dogs take turns being guards to watch for danger. Do you see any prairie dogs standing guard?



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CORN SNAKE

They might be small, but these snakes have a big role to play in keeping mice and rats away. In fact, corn snakes are also called "red rat snakes" because rats are one of their favorite foods.

LET'S TALK!

Like most animals, snakes will not bite people unless they feel afraid. What do you think is the best thing to do if you find a corn snake?

Corn snakes are not venomous. They are constrictors. That means they squeeze their prey before they swallow it.



PANAMANIAN GOLDEN FROG

A Panamanian golden frog's body can make poison that covers its skin. The poison protects them from being eaten. Although they are tiny, these frogs can be dangerous even to large animals like humans!

LET'S TALK!

A golden frog's bright colors warn predators that it is dangerous. What other animals can you think of that have a similar defense?

Panamanian golden frogs are important to the people of Panama. These frogs are their national symbol.



SMALL... BUT MIGHTY!

WARTHOG

Warthogs graze on grass and use their snouts to dig in the dirt to find plant roots. As they dig, they mix the soil, which can help grass grow. By helping grass to grow, the warthogs protect an important food source for many other animals on the savanna.

LET'S TALK!

Warthogs roll in mud--or wallow--to protect their skin from sun and bugs. What other animals in the Zoo do you think like to wallow?

WHY THE LONG FACE?

Warthogs kneel to eat grass and roots. Their eyes are up on top of their head so they can still look for predators.



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NIGERIAN DWARF GOAT

Goats can have a big impact on the lives of people. Different kinds of goats have different jobs to do. People use them for milk, food, for wool, and even for lawn care. Some people have goats as pets.

LET'S TALK!

Goats were one of the first animals people kept on farms. What kinds of jobs do you think other animals in the Zoo's Farmyard would have?

WHY THE BIG BELLY?

Goats are ruminants. That means they have stomachs with FOUR different parts. Giraffes have stomachs like this, too!



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