



KS4 – What Do Zoos Do? Worksheet

Curriculum Links:

Biology – *Inheritance, Variation and Evolution*: variation and phenotype, selective breeding, natural selection, phylogeny; *Ecosystems; Biodiversity; Homeostasis; Health and Disease*.

Chemistry – *Earth and Atmospheric Science*: Earth's limited resources, sustainable use, climate change; *Chemical Analysis*: Filtration

Zoos are some of the main players in conservation programs around the world. Many of the scientists working within the wildlife conservation field had their interest in animals sparked by visits to zoos as children.

In the 21st Century, zoos aim to promote the idea of protecting biodiversity around the world. At the same time, we need to be up to date on the latest research findings on the animals in our care, and incorporate this into our enclosure designs, educational programs, and in our animal husbandry practices.

Zoos are also tourist attractions, so they need to consider all the factors that make a great attraction.

How many species can you find that are endangered (status is either Vulnerable, Endangered or Critically Endangered) ? _____

Why do we have animals that are so critically endangered? _____

Do you think the animals would be better left in the wild? Why? _____

How is the water cleaned and circulated in the ponds? _____

What are the two key features of the lights in the enclosures?

1. _____ 2. _____

Why do you think we breed some crocodiles, but not others?

Do you think it is a good idea for zoos to breed animals if they do not know they are genetically pure?

Read the following document:

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/strategic-plan/2011-2020/Aichi-Targets-EN.pdf>

This outlines the Convention on Biological Diversity's strategic goals and specific targets. It's a short summary document, but very important.

Which of the Strategic Goals are zoos in a great position to be supporting?

How applicable do you think these biodiversity targets are to us in the UK?

What facilities and features can you see here at the zoo that are important for tourist attractions to have?

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