



KS4 – What Do Zoos Do?

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

Learning Objectives

After this session, all pupils will be able to:

- Understand that zoos are more than just 'animal exhibits'
- Know that zoos have animals collection plans
- Understand the concept of biodiversity

After this session, most pupils will be able to:

- Explain the importance of biodiversity and why we must conserve it
- Understand the importance of genetics in zoo collections and conservation programs
- Understand some of the aspects of animal husbandry

After this session, some pupils will be able to:

- Explain how protecting biodiversity is vital for people as well as wildlife
- Understand the components of a successful collection plan in zoos
- Understand the link between zoos and conservation in the wild

Lesson Plan

We will look at how zoos have progressed from the menageries of ancient times to become the leading force in conservation. This will emphasize the main purpose of zoos today, and how more people visits zoos each year around the world than attend all major sporting events.

Students will be given an introduction on animal collection planning, and how we need to understand and apply recent research into our animal husbandry and planning procedures. Certain key factors such as heating and lighting, and enclosure design will be emphasized.

Remembering that zoos are in fact tourist attractions, key components of that aspect will also be covered.

The lesson will take place in our Education Room. The presenter will use Powerpoint, audio-visuals, as well as printed materials to illustrate key points. They will then be guided to relevant exhibits to reinforce the lesson material.

Pre-visit

Before you visit Crocodiles of the World, we suggest the pupils are made aware of the basic concepts of zoos, wildlife conservation and start to think about what elements we need to consider in being an attraction for tourists.

During the Visit

Our presenter will meet you upon arrival and usher your group to the Education Room. He will suggest the exhibits that best represent the topic of the lesson. The pupils are encouraged to read the signboards located around the zoo. These are informative, and provide a wealth of material on a broad range of topics about crocodylians, habitats, and conservation.



After your visit

We will provide a worksheet that will reinforce the material in this lesson. The main idea we want the students to take in during this session is that zoos are in the conservation business. We aim to educate visitors, contribute to research and undertake or support conservation projects. You should also discuss with the children their understanding of how biodiversity should be protected, and the concept of how biodiversity is the key to a living, breathing planet Earth.

Duration: 45 mins classroom session

Capacity: 35 Students

Contact our Education Officer: education@crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk

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