

ANIMAL WEBCAM ACTIVITIES



Photo by Skip Brown/Smithsonian's National Zoo



Smithsonian
National Zoological Park
Conservation Biology Institute



FRIENDS
OF THE NATIONAL ZOO

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the wild side of learning! This packet is a supplemental resource to be used with Smithsonian's National Zoo's live webcams (<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams>) where animal fans of all ages can observe African lions, Asian elephants, giant pandas, and naked mole-rats. The activities in this packet are designed to engage students (grades K-5) in looking closely and thinking deeply about animal behavior and habitats. Note: animals are not always on view on cameras, so please check back if you don't see anything.

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Photo by Roshan Patel/
Smithsonian's National Zoo



Photo by Meghan Murphy/
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NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS (grades K-5)

K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive.

K-ESS2-2. Construct an argument supported by evidence for how plants and animals (including humans) can change the environment to meet their needs.

K-ESS3-1. Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals (including humans) and the places they live.

1-LS1-2. Read texts and use media to determine patterns in behavior of parents and offspring that help offspring survive.

1-LS3-1. Make observations to construct an evidence-based account that young plants and animals are like, but not exactly like, their parents.

2-LS2-2. Develop a simple model that mimics the function of an animal in dispersing seeds or pollinating plants.

2-LS4-1. Make observations of plants and animals to compare the diversity of life in different habitats.

3-LS2-1. Construct an argument that some animals form groups that help members survive.

3-LS3-1. Analyze and interpret data to provide evidence that plants and animals have traits inherited from parents and that variation of these traits exists in a group of similar organisms.

3-LS4-2. Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

4-LS1-1. Construct an argument that plants and animals have internal and external structures that function to support survival, growth, behavior, and reproduction.

5-LS2-1. Develop a model to describe the movement of matter among plants, animals, decomposers, and the environment.

Parent Guides are available for the Next Generation Science Standards in English and Spanish: <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides>



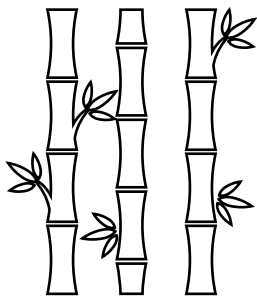
Photo by Meghan Murphy/Smithsonian's National Zoo

Scientist (name): _____

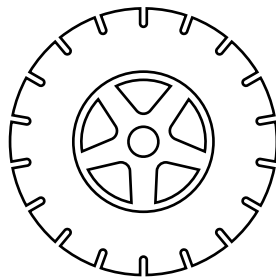
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I-Spy At The Zoo

Visit Smithsonian's National Zoo's website and check out the animal webcams. Can you "spy" the pictures below? Color what you see on the Zoo's webcams!



bamboo



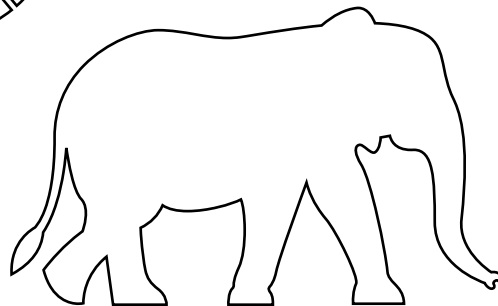
tire



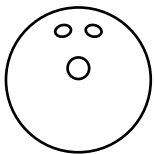
water



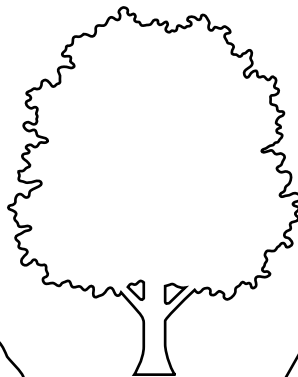
naked mole-rat



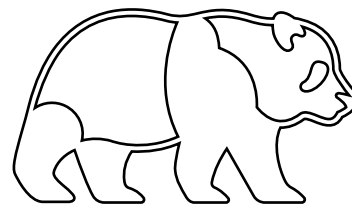
Asian elephant



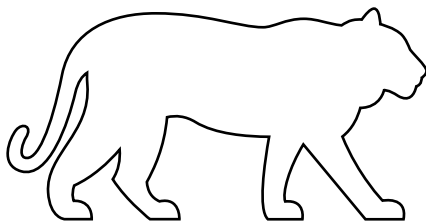
puzzle feeder



tree



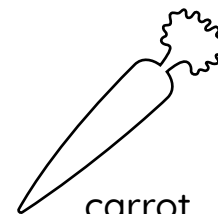
giant panda



African lion



rock



carrot




Extend Your Learning Cut and sort the pictures into groups (i.e. food, water, shelter, enrichment or create your own groups).

Scientist (name): _____

Date: _____

Zoo Explorers: Habitat Edition

Visit Smithsonian's National Zoo's website and check out the animal webcams. Explore the animals' habitats, use the questions below to think deeply, and then write and/or draw your responses.

Parts What are the components of the habitat?	Purposes What does each part do or provide for the animals?	Importance How is each part helpful to the animals?
 There's a big, red <u>brush</u> in the elephant's yard.	 It provides <u>enrichment</u> for them.	 Enrichment <u>enhances</u> their life.




Extend Your Learning Build an animal habitat including food, water, shelter, and enrichment.

Scientist (name): _____

Date: _____

If You Were An Animal At The Zoo

Visit Smithsonian's National Zoo's website and check out the animal webcams. Imagine that you are an animal at the Zoo, use the questions below to think deeply, and then write and/or draw your responses.

Observe	Believe	Care About
What does the animal see? What are they doing?	What might the animal think or feel?	What might the animal care about?
 An elephant is <u>shaking her head</u> .	 Maybe she's <u>feeling silly</u> .	 She might like to <u>play</u> .

Extend Your Learning Write a journal entry about your day from the point of view of an animal at the Zoo.

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

Animal Webcams

(<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/webcams>)

African Lion Fact Sheet

(<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/lion>)

Asian Elephant Fact Sheet

(<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/asian-elephant>)

Giant Panda Fact Sheet

(https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/giant-panda_)

Naked Mole-Rat Fact Sheet

(<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/naked-mole-rat>)

Parts, Purposes, Complexities Thinking Routine

(<https://pz.harvard.edu/resources/parts-purposes-complexities>)

Perceive, Believe, Care About Thinking Routine

[http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/
03_ThinkingRoutines/03g_CreativityRoutines/StepInside/
StepInside_Routine.html](http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03g_CreativityRoutines/StepInside/StepInside_Routine.html)



SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO
& CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE



FRIENDS
OF THE NATIONAL ZOO

GLOSSARY

- **Bamboo**: a tall treelike tropical grass with a hard hollow jointed stem.
- **Enrichment**: the process of providing stimulating environments for animals in order for them to demonstrate their species-typical behavior, to allow them exercise control or choice over their environment, and to enhance their well-being.
- **Habitat**: the environment where an animal lives, including nutrients, water, shelter, and resources that an individual needs to survive.
- **Zoological Park**: a place that provides engaging experiences with animals and creates and shares knowledge to save wildlife and habitats.



Photo by Roshan Patel/Smithsonian's National Zoo