Recycling Recess
Make Something; Make a Difference!

Curate a Collection

Think about your favorite area at the Zoo. The animals in that area have something in common. Why do you think the Zoo grouped those animals together? Sorting, organizing, and caring for collections is called *curating*. We bet that you have some pretty neat groups of items like shells, pine cones, stuffed animals, or pencils. Pick your favorite group of items and curate them in interesting and different ways!

Here is my rock collection!

How can we curate it?

By shape!

(The hearts are my favorite)

By size!

Thanks to *Luci Creative* for this project idea!

After curating each collection, take a picture and make a photo exhibit!

SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO & CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

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Recycling Recess
Wildlife connections

All living organisms on Earth are grouped, or classified, through a scientific system called *taxonomy*. Taxonomy is the system that scientists use to group living things together, based on similar characteristics, like how it reproduces or what it typically eats. An organism's classification begin with the traits that it has in common with many organisms and becomes more specific with each step Let's use the taxonomic system to classify a tiger.

Kingdom: Animalia (a tiger is an animal)

Phylum: Chordata (has a backbone)

Class: Mammalia (is a mammal)

Order: Carnivora (eats meat)

Family: Felidae (is a cat)

Genus: Panthera (is a great cat)

Species: tigris (unique name)

Photo by Mehgan Murphy/Smithsonian's National Zoo

Recycling Recess Challenges

The Smithsonian's National Zoo curates its animal collections in two different ways: taxonomically and geographically.

- The **Small Mammal House** features many different animals from the class *Mammalia*. What are the common traits that all mammals share?
- **Amazonia** features fish, birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians from the Amazon rainforest and river. If you were in charge of a zoo, how would you sort and curate the animals within your care?

Draw an imaginary animal and use the taxonomic system to classify its kingdom, phylum, class, order, family and genus. Be sure to create a unique species name for it. What other animals (real or imaginary) share similar traits or characteristics? Visit Mensa for Kids to help you classify your animal!

Learn more about Smithsonian's National Zoo at our website (nationalzoo.si.edu)!

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