In this episode of The Wild Side of STEAM, we met Jessica, a veterinary technician at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo. Jessica explained how she cares for animals at the Zoo and how her career as a veterinary technician differs from that of a veterinarian.

**ACTIVITY 1: What is a Veterinary Technician?**

1. Watch the Wild Side of STEAM: Veterinary Technician webinar. If you missed the live event, the video recording is available on: [https://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wild-side-steam](https://nationalzoo.si.edu/education/wild-side-steam)
2. After watching the webinar, can you describe how the career of a veterinary technician differs from a veterinarian? Based on what you heard, are you interested in the career of a veterinary technician? Why or why not?

**ACTIVITY 2: How can I practice being a Veterinary Technician?**

Now that you have learned more about this career, practice being a veterinary technician by choosing one of the two variations of this activity:

1. **Online Interactive Story: Routine Exam for an Andean Bear**
   a. Access the story by visiting: [https://nationalzoo.si.edu/zoo-tour/steam/vet-tech-wrapup](https://nationalzoo.si.edu/zoo-tour/steam/vet-tech-wrapup)
   b. In this interactive story, follow along as an honorary veterinary technician through seven guided steps of a routine animal exam for an Andean bear. This version requires internet access.

2. **Printable Activity Sheets: Examining Animal X-Rays**
   a. Print out the following two activity sheet pages. As an alternative, you can also review the activity sheet pages and write your answers in a notebook.
   b. In this print out activity, examine animal X-rays as an honorary veterinary. Try identifying radiographs by matching the X-ray to the correct animal. Then try labeling several parts of an orangutan radiograph.

**RESOURCES:** Continue learning about the Zoo’s Veterinary Technicians and their work by visiting the following links.

- Dental care
- Blood draws
- Vaccinations
- Mobility
- Blood pressure
Greetings fellow veterinary technicians!

Today you will be assisting in the lab by examining some animal radiographs or X-rays, just like veterinary technicians do at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo.

1. X-ray Identifications

Uh oh! Our X-rays were mixed up and there are no labels on them. Can you match the x-rays below to the correct animal?

A  B  C  D

Fish  Snake  Frog  Horseshoe crab
Label an X-ray
A veterinary technician needs to know how to read an X-ray, including how to recognize an animal’s bones and organs. Can you label the orangutan X-ray below with heart, lungs, skull, and spine?