

Zoo Jobs: Conservation Educator Activity

At the zoo, educators will write and deliver school workshops (a bit like teachers) and animal talks and activities to help people understand about zoo animals. Talks tell zoo visitors about where animals live, what food they eat, how they behave, what threats they might face and how people can help save species.

Take a look at one of our Zoo Rangers at Chester Zoo talking about Snow leopards: www.chesterzoo.org/learning-resources/video-snow-leopard-fact-file

Use the animal talk guide and the animal fact sheets to write a short talk on the species of your choice (or you can research and write your own).



Create an animal talk

Talking to visitors about our animals and conservation work is very important.

It means we can share lots of stories and get people to think about conservation and how they can get involved.

Use this worksheet to create your very own animal talk.

Step 1: Choose an animal to focus on

This might be your favourite animal at the zoo or even an animal you want to know more about.

Step 2: Think about what you would like your family and friends to learn at your talk

- Amazing facts about animals and their habitats
- Threats to animals
- Actions they can do to help
- How Chester Zoo is helping

Step 3: Time to research your animal

There are lots of places with information about animals including books, documentaries and the zoo website. We have lots of fact files to help too.

Step 4: Is there a Chester Zoo campaign linked to your animal that you can talk about?

- Sustainable Palm Oil
- Wildlife Connections
- Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Sing for Songbirds

Step 5: Decide how long your talk will be

Think about how you will structure your talk and how long it will be. You will need an introduction, main talk and conclusion.

STEP 6: Write your talk

Introduction:

Main Talk:

Conclusion:

If you need a little help, our Zoo Rangers have put together some top facts for some of their favourite animals.



Elephants

- There are two different kinds of elephants, Asian and African. Asian elephants have smaller ears.
- Elephants are very sociable animals and mothers stay with their young for several years.
- Elephants face many threats in the wild. This includes hunting, human animal conflict, habitat loss and disease.



Meerkats

- A group of meerkats is called a mob.
- Meerkats come from Africa and live in hot desert-like habitats.
- Meerkats are excellent burrowers; they use these burrows to protect themselves from the heat and predators.
- The role of the sentry is to look out for predators whilst the rest of the mob forage for food.



Penguins

- The penguins at Chester Zoo are Humboldt penguins, which come from Peru and Chile.
- Penguins are a bit of a strange bird because they are flightless.
- Penguins are fantastic swimmers! They are streamlined and very quick, faster than the fastest human in water.
- Penguins swallow fish whole, so they actually turn them around and swallow them head first - that way they don't get any scales or fins stuck in their throats.

Now it's time to put your talk into action. If you are planning a trip to Chester Zoo why not take your talk along and impress your friends and family.

We'd love to hear your talks. Share your talks with us on Facebook @LearnatCZ

Sumatran tiger



Global extinction risk:
Critically endangered

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Name	Sumatran tiger
Scientific name	<i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>
Threats (why they're at risk)	Habitat loss mainly due to expansion of palm oil plantations. They're also threatened by hunting
Distribution (where they live)	Sumatra, Indonesia
Habitat (what they live in)	Tropical broadleaf evergreen forests, freshwater swamp forest, peat swamps
Diet/Feeding strategy (what they eat and how they eat it)	Carnivorous. They eat large and small mammals, birds, fish and insects
Social behaviour (how they live)	Normally solitary except for mother-juvenile groups. They scent mark around their territories using a mixture of "marking fluid and urine which is often sprayed on trees. They also use faeces (poo) and scratch trees
Males and females	Males are both larger and heavier than females
Lifespan (how long they live for)	Up to 20 years
Number of young (how many babies)	They can have between 1-7 cubs which become independent within 2 years
Interesting fact	Their paws are webbed which make them very good swimmers

Humboldt penguin



Global extinction risk:
Vulnerable



Name	Humboldt penguin
Scientific name	<i>Spheniscus humboldti</i>
Threats (why they're at risk)	Big weather events like El Niño and fishing too much of their prey
Distribution (where they live)	Chile and Peru, where the cold Humboldt current brings them lots of fish to eat
Habitat (what they live in)	Beaches and coastlines
Diet/Feeding strategy (what they eat and how they eat it)	They dive in the water to catch fish like anchovies. They can hold their breath for up to 2 minutes underwater
Social behaviour (how they live)	They live together in big colonies that can be more than 200 birds
Males and females	Males are bigger and heavier than females. But it's not easy to tell the difference
Lifespan (how long they live for)	Around 15 years
Number of young (how many babies)	1 or 2 chicks every year
Interesting fact	You can tell the difference between Humboldt penguins by looking at their spot patterns. They're different for every penguin

Reticulated python



Global extinction risk:
Not evaluated



Name	Reticulated python
Scientific name	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
Threats (why they're at risk)	Hunted for their skin
Distribution (where they live)	South East Asia
Habitat (what they live in)	By water in tropical rainforests
Diet/Feeding strategy (what they eat and how they eat it)	They eat birds and mammals like small deer and wild pigs. But they've killed humans in the past. They kill prey by wrapping their body around it and suffocating it.
Social behaviour (how they live)	They live on their own
Males and females	Females are larger than males
Lifespan (how long they live for)	Up to 40 years in the wild
Number of young (how many babies)	They lay between 50-100 eggs
Interesting fact	The longest snake in the world, they can grow to 10m long if they have big enough prey to eat