



SCHOOL EXPLORERS CURRICULUM

GRADES 5 - 6

SCHOOL EXPLORERS

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

NGSS ALIGNMENT

5-ESS3-1: Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

MS-LS1-4: Use argument based on empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support an explanation for how characteristic animal behaviors and specialized plant structures affect the probability of successful reproduction of animals and plants respectively.

MS-LS1-5: Construct a scientific explanation based on evidence for how environmental and genetic factors influence the growth of organisms.

OBJECTIVE

Students will observe that plants and animals have physical characteristics and behaviors that allow them to successfully survive and reproduce, but when their environmental changes it can negatively affect their ability to survive and reproduce, requiring human intervention.

MATERIALS

For chaperones:

- Tour pages
- Map
- Student activity instructions
- Bingo (optional)
- Glossary (optional)

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TEACHER GUIDE

HOW TO USE CURRICULUM PACKET

In this curriculum, you will find a *Chaperone Guide* for a self-led tour and activities. Make copies depending on your chaperone headcount. Students do not need any copies of the materials, however, you may print individual bingo sheets for students if you prefer.

Self-Guided Tour

Assign chaperone groups. Each chaperone will be able to lead the group using their Chaperone Guides. The headings on each page indicate the section of the zoo that correlates to where the tour is. There are talking points for certain enclosures, denoted by the subheadings named after the animal. For the talking points, there are italicized questions to spark discussions that can be led by each chaperone. Underlined words can be found in the Glossary.

Using the Map

Attached is a map with marked locations of the tour. The map includes dashed lines to indicate suggested walking paths. Numbered and starred locations, also referenced in the self-guided tour, denote enclosures with provided talking points. Some enclosures are multispecies habitats meaning there may be multiple animals for each star. You may print a map for each chaperone, or just use the written tour.

Facilitating the Activities

In this packet you will find four activities. The chaperone-led activities are observation and verbal response based. Activities #1, #2, & #3 should be done when you reach their specific location, while Activity #4 can be done throughout the tour.

Chaperones can lead any or all activities they choose from #1-3, and those locations are marked on the map with the suggested walking path.

Activity #4 can be used as a competition or challenge for chaperone groups to do as teams!

TEACHER GUIDE

FIELD TRIP SCHEDULE

Use the space below to plan your itinerary.

TIME

ACTIVITY

LOCATION

CHECKLIST

Item

Count

Item

Count

SCHOOL EXPLORERS CHAPERONE PACKET

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INSTRUCTIONS

Included in this booklet is a map of the path you will be taking with your group, marked with a **dashed line**. As you move through the park, refer to the Guided Tour Pages for talking points. The **stars** on the map indicate enclosures or gardens you will stop at. Some enclosures have multiple species. Refer to the numbers on the guided tour for those stops as there may be duplicate numbers. If something is in *italics*, it is a question to lead a discussion. **Underlined** words can be found in the glossary.

Activities 1, 2, & 3 have their intended location marked on the map, but other locations can be substituted if you prefer. **Activity 4** can be done as you move through the park on the self-guided tour.

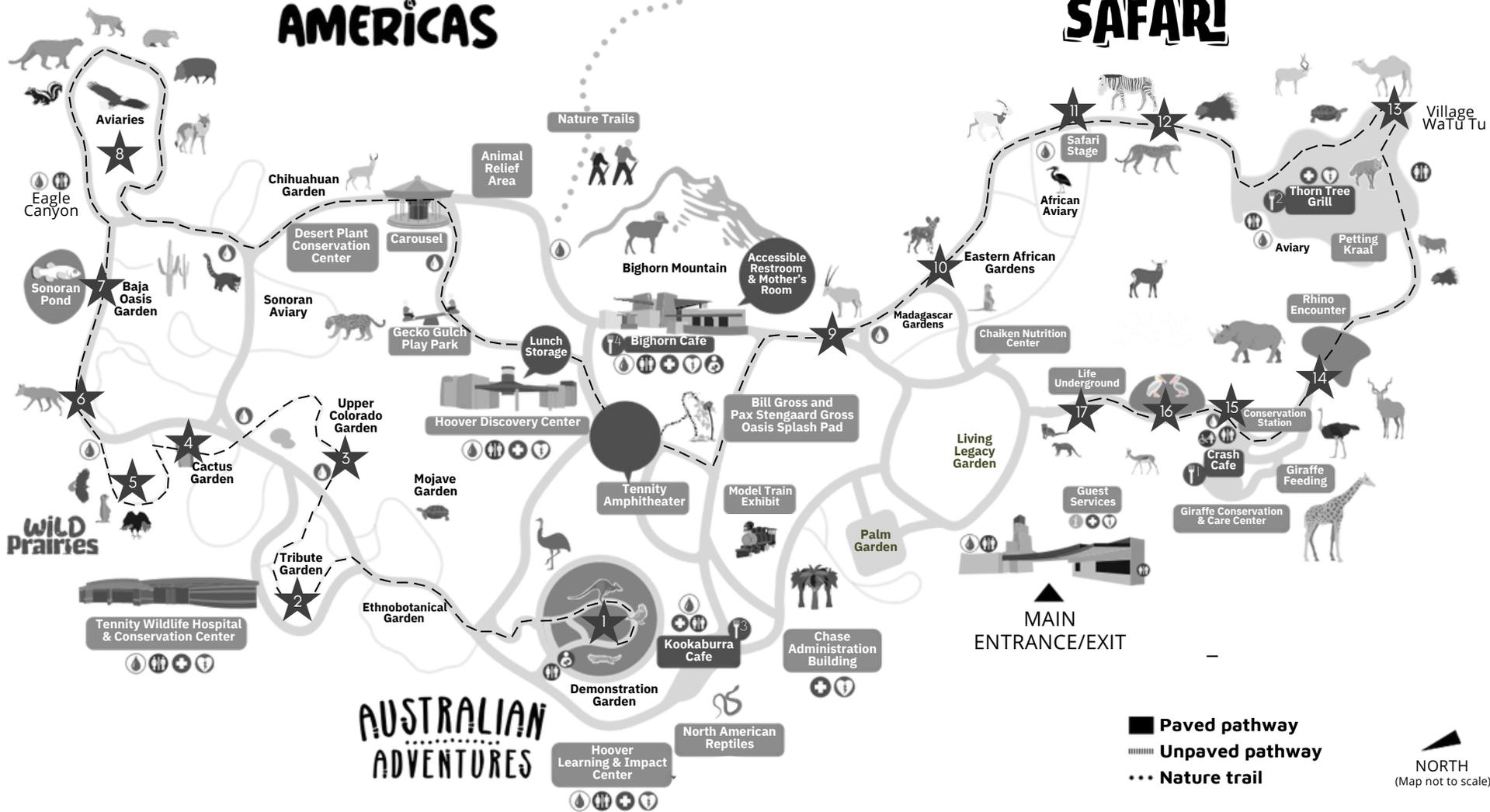
MY GROUP

List your student group below.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

WILD AMERICAS

AFRICAN SAFARI



FOOD & DRINK:

- 1 Crash Cafe*** - Specialty coffees, snacks, soft-serve, beverages, and draft beer.
- 2 Thorn Tree Grill*** - Freshly-made burgers, hot sandwiches, salads, soft drinks, beer, and wine.
- 3 Kookaburra Cafe*** - Made to order pizza, pasta, salads, snacks, soft drinks, beer, and wine.
- 4 Bighorn Cafe** - Asian and Southwest inspired rice and noodle bowls, sandwiches, pizzas, smoothies, snacks, beer, wine, and more!

*Closed for Summer

GUEST SERVICES:

- i** Information | Lost and Found
- ♿** Stroller/Wheelchair/ECV Rentals
- ♿** Restrooms
- ♿** Adult Changing Table
- +** First Aid Station
- ♿** Mother's Room
- 💧** Drinking Fountain
- 💧** Water Bottle Refill Station
- ⚡** Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

AUSTRALIAN ADVENTURES

BENNETT'S WALLABY

1

BIG IDEA: Some animals have unique ways of raising their young that help them survive.

Ask: What do you notice about our Bennett's Wallabies that could help them survive?

- Wallabies are marsupials, which are a group of animals who typically have a pouch on their body in which they carry their young.
- Bennett's wallabies carry their babies in their pouch for about 280 days, and young wallabies (called joeys) continue to return to the pouch for milk until 12-17 months of age.
- Females may have one young in the pouch and one on foot with her at the same time.

BUDGERIGAR

1

BIG IDEA: Some animals have bright colors that are beneficial in their native habitat.

Ask: Can you spot the bright green and yellow birds flying from tree to tree or hiding in the leaves?

- The bright colors of these birds may seem obvious, but in their habitat they are perfectly camouflaged and hidden in the trees and leaves.
- Budgerigars live in flocks that can gather in huge groups of hundreds or thousands around water sources, and sticking together helps prevent predators like hawks from picking an individual out from the group.
- Many brightly colored birds are found in the pet trade, but even the species that are legal to own can pose many challenges. For more information see AZA's "Not a Pet" campaign website.

YELLOW-FOOTED ROCK WALLABY

1

BIG IDEA: Invasive Species can threaten native animals.

- Yellow-Footed Rock Wallabies were a species headed for extinction in the early 1900's, but thanks to conservation efforts are now only considered near threatened.
- One of their main threats is predation by and competition for food from invasive species that were introduced by Europeans.
- They are hunted by both foxes and feral cats, neither of which are native species in Australia.
- They have to compete with feral goats for food, which are not a native species.

ACTIVITY #1: FLOWER FACINATION

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

2

Goal/Objective: Make observations to explain what traits flowers use to attract pollinators in order to successfully reproduce.

Location: Tribute Garden (Star 2 on map)

Topic Overview: Pollination, insects, flowers, traits, adaptations

Activity Time: 15-20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

In this activity students will observe a garden to determine what traits flowers have to attract pollinators, and what traits pollinators have to collect pollen and nectar from those plants.

Key Information:

Pollinators assist with plant reproduction by moving pollen between flowers. When they visit a flower they pick up some pollen on their body, and bring it along with them to the next flower they visit. This allows the flower to reproduce. Flowers attract these important pollinators with nectar, color, scent, large flowers, and more.

Chaperone Instructions:

Lead students through the Tribute Garden pointing out each of the flowering plants and pollinators as you pass by and asking the questions below to the group. Allow students to point out their own observations and show the group pollinators they find while traveling through the garden.

Ask:

- What living things act as pollinators to flowering plants?
 - Insects: bees, butterflies, flies, wasps, beetles
 - Birds: hummingbirds, doves, orioles
 - Mammals: mostly bats
- How are the plants here attracting the pollinators to visit them?
 - Students might observe color, scent, size, texture, or other attributes.
- Why is attracting pollinators so important for these plants?
 - They require pollination to reproduce.

UPPER COLORADO GARDEN

OCOTILLO

3

BIG IDEA: Some plants produce brightly colored flowers to attract pollinators in order to reproduce.

Ask: Keep count! How many ocotillo plants can you spot?

- Ocotillo plants attract pollinators with their bright, tubular flowers, which are filled with sweet nectar.
- As a pollinator drinks the nectar, pollen from the flower sticks to its beak and head.
- When the pollinator visits the next ocotillo flower, it transfers the pollen, fertilizing the new flower and allowing it to produce seeds.



CHOLLA

3

BIG IDEA: Some plants drop pieces of themselves that develop into new plants to reproduce asexually.

- Cholla cacti reproduce asexually through a process called fragmentation, where a piece of the parent plant breaks off and grows into a new, identical plant.
- Cholla branches are made of loosely connected segments. These small pieces can easily break off from the main cactus, the detached pieces will latch onto fur of passing animals or the clothes of people.



DESERT WILLOW

3

BIG IDEA: Some plants have flowers that are sweetly scented to attract pollinators for their reproduction.

- Desert willows attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and large bees by producing large, trumpet-shaped flowers with a sweet, scented smell.
- The flowers' different shades of pink, lavender, and white make the flowers easily visible encouraging pollinators to visit the desert willow, facilitating the cross-pollination necessary for its reproduction.



ACTIVITY #2: CACTUS CAUTION

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

4

Goal/Objective: Observe how plants such as cacti and other thorny species use spines to protect themselves from being eaten or damaged.

Location: Cactus Garden (Star 4 on map)

Topic Overview: Adaptations, plants, herbivores, desert

Activity Time: 10-15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

In this activity, students will observe some of the largest cacti at The Living Desert and start making observations about how desert plants stay safe from herbivores who might want to eat them.

Key Information:

Water is scarce in the desert, so many animals obtain it from the plants they eat. To survive dry periods, many desert plants store water in their stems, making them a desirable food source. However, some plants have defenses, such as spines, and thorns, to keep predators away.

Chaperone Instructions:

Lead students through the cactus garden, or do this activity on any path where cacti are visible on grounds. Point out the variety of plants, both cacti and non-cacti that have defensive thorns. **Remind students not to touch any plants**, for their safety and the well-being of our gardens. Continue doing this activity as you see unique plants around the zoo with interesting defenses.

Ask the questions below, while encouraging students to share their own observations about the plants they see as well.

Ask:

- What do you notice about this plant's defenses?
 - Does it have spines? Hairs?
 - Are they long? Short? Curved? Straight?
 - Does it have many? Few? Spread out? In clusters?
- What might it be protecting itself from?
 - Does it have leaves or grasses a rabbit or deer might eat? Does it have stems a tortoise might eat? Does it have cactus pads a peccary might eat?

WILD PRAIRIES

PRAIRIE DOGS

5

BIG IDEA: Some animals live in groups, alerting each other to danger.

Ask: Can you spot any raised mounds of prairie dog burrow entrances here?

- Black tailed prairie dogs live in large colonies sometimes referred to as “towns”.
- They construct burrows underground for safety, with each entrance surrounded by a raised mound.
- Prairie dog towns often include side chambers used as sleeping spaces or storage rooms, as well as back doors that provide escape routes.
- They will retreat to these mounds and give a series of yips as a warning to all other prairie dogs in their community when they spot, smell, or hear danger.
- The raised mounds act like a platform, and allow them to stand high on their hind legs to better look for the source of danger before retreating underground.
- Besides keeping an eye out for predators, prairie dogs are often busy building new burrows or maintaining existing ones.

TURKEY VULTURES

5

BIG IDEA: Some carnivores rarely hunt and instead scavenge for their food.

Ask: Can you spot the turkey vultures? What looks different about them compared to other birds you might see?

Ask: What sense do you think turkey vultures use to find carcasses?

- Turkey vultures are scavengers, this means that they feed on animals that are already dead, rather than hunting themselves.
- In order to stay clean, they have featherless heads, preventing rotting material from getting stuck in feathers there. This gives them those distinctive pinkish faces.
- They have a strong sense of smell, allowing them to soar high in the sky and locate their meal from scent at a distance.
- Turkey vultures stomachs are extremely acidic, which allows them to digest just about anything including carcasses tainted with tuberculosis and rabies without getting sick.
- These birds have an important job in the world, they are the cleanup crew after other carnivores, eating the leftovers and digesting material other animals cannot.

WILD AMERICAS

COYOTE

6

BIG IDEA: Some wild animals are often seen by humans because of increased human activities in previously wild spaces.

Ask: How many of you have seen a wild coyote before?

- Coyotes often live close to human populations and are found in two-thirds of North America.
- They are able to adjust to changing conditions and many environments, making them adaptable to living near humans.
- Their habitats range from forests and grasslands to deserts and urban areas.
- Despite often being killed by humans in the forms of hunting, trapping, and poisoning, this species continues to thrive and fills a very important role in their ecosystem.
- They help keep populations of small mammals and rodents lower, occasionally hunt larger prey such as deer, and compete with other medium sized hunting species.
- Coyote attacks on humans are rare, but caution is still advised, especially around pets and small children.

DESERT PUPFISH

7

BIG IDEA: Human impacts including climate change can greatly affect the habitat suitable for a species to live in.

Ask: Where in the Coachella Valley can you find natural populations of desert pupfish?

- The desert pupfish is an endangered species, only being found in a few limited areas within their natural ranges and in 14 human-made refuges.
- Four of those refuge ponds are here at The Living Desert, and one of them is here at Sonoran Pond.
- Currently, natural populations of desert pupfish can be found in the Salton Sea and nearby shorelines and freshwater ponds.
- Habitat destruction and alteration along with non-native species being introduced to the areas these fish live in are the main reasons for their decline in numbers.
- Artificial irrigation, changes in waterways, destruction of ponds and pollution all affected the habitat of this species.
- The Living Desert's conservation team actively goes out to restore habitats for this species.

📍 EAGLE CANYON

BALD EAGLE

8

BIG IDEA: Some animals have been harmed by human activities such as certain pesticides, but cooperation can allow them to recover.

- The bald eagle is a success story of conservation and the Endangered Species Act!
- They were in danger of extinction in the mid-1900's, but today have recovered in numbers.
- Use of certain pesticides caused their eggshells to thin, resulting in far less bald eagles successfully raising young.
- When use of these chemicals was studied and eventually banned for common use, it helped the species recover.

STRIPED SKUNK

8

BIG IDEA: Some animals use threat displays and natural defense mechanisms to avoid being eaten.

Ask: *What is the reason a skunk might use its spray?*

- When feeling threatened, skunks may show warning behaviors such as stomping their feet or raising their tails, rather than attacking.
- As a defense mechanism, skunks will raise their tails and release a stinky spray that can reach a distance of 15 feet.
- The skunks strong-smelling spray, with its distinct sulfuric odor, serves to discourage predators.

MOUNTAIN LION

8

BIG IDEA: The nutrition an animal gets as a baby affects their growth.

Ask: *Why is it important for a cub to gain weight in the first months of life?*

- For the first weeks, cubs are blind, helpless, and completely dependent on their mother's milk. The milk is rich in fat and protein, which helps with rapid growth. The milk also provides the necessary nutrients and energy for the cub to gain weight.
- Gaining weight in the first months of life helps a cub develop strong muscles and healthy bodily systems which are essential for practicing the pouncing, stalking, and wrestling skills that will be needed for hunting.

📍 EAGLE CANYON

NORTH AMERICAN PORCUPINE

8

BIG IDEA: Some animals have natural defenses that they use to ward off and escape predators and other threats.

Ask: Can porcupines shoot their quills?

- Porcupines are born with soft quills, which harden in a couple of days. Their quills are used as a defense mechanism to scare and escape predators.
- Porcupines are covered in about 30,000 quills. They cannot throw or shoot their quills.
- Quills are lightly attached they come off easily when a predator encounters them and will continue to slowly enter the predators skin.
- Porcupines are more likely to flee predators, but if cornered, they will make their quills stand up, turn its back to the attacker and lash its barbed tail.

Ask: How do quills come off a porcupine?

BOBCAT

8

BIG IDEA: Animals of the same species that live in different places can have genetic differences that affect how they look.

- Bobcat subspecies from different places have genetic differences that influence their appearance, including coat, color, spotting, and body size.
- Bobcats are often confused with the other three lynx species, the Canadian lynx, Iberian lynx, and Eurasian lynx. Each lynx has different characteristic facial ruffs and ear tufts.
- The variations are a result of adaptations to diverse environments, from deserts to swamps and forests across North America.

MEXICAN WOLVES

8

BIG IDEA: Some animals have been driven out of their native ranges due to human activities.

- Human expansion into the southwest led to conflict with Mexican wolves.
- Wolves were targeted with poisoning, trapping, and killing campaigns to protect livestock. Despite federal protection, human activities continue to threaten wild wolf populations.

AFRICAN SAFARI

ARABIAN ORYX

9

BIG IDEA: Some animals have gone extinct in the wild, but have later been successfully reintroduced.

Ask: *What's something unique that you notice about the oryx?*

- The Arabian oryx was considered extinct in the wild in 1972 primarily due to uncontrolled hunting and poaching.
- Successful reintroduction projects in the 1980s allowed the species to return to its native habitats in the Middle East.
- The Living Desert was part of a collaborative effort to breed the species and keep a healthy population alive in human care, so oryx born here were released into the wild!
- Keeping healthy population of endangered species in human care can be instrumental to allowing reintroduction efforts if they go extinct in the wild.
- Despite its recovery, the species still faces threats from poaching and habitat destruction, leading to concerns about its population numbers in the wild.
- The Arabian oryx is NOW listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

AFRICAN PAINTED DOG

10

BIG IDEA: Some animals are harmed by humans because they are blamed for the loss of livestock.

Ask: *Why are painted dogs harmed by humans?*

Ask: *How many painted dogs can you count currently in the living desert?*

- Farmers and landowners have historically persecuted painted dogs, believing them to be dangerous pack hunters and a threat to livestock, leading to killings and bounties.
- Painted dogs live and hunt in packs. If key members are killed by humans or disease, the whole pack can be negatively impacted.
- Their natural habitat requires large areas of land for hunting and breeding.
- Painted dogs naturally prefer to hunt wild prey and avoid people, but habitat loss and declining prey populations force them to target livestock for survival—often resulting in lethal conflict with farmers.

📍 AFRICAN SAFARI

BAT-EARED FOX

11

BIG IDEA: Some animals live in pairs and raise young together, both working to help their own babies survive.

- Bat-eared foxes live in pairs and raise their young together in family groups, often forming monogamous pairs for life.
- These pairs are joined by their offspring, creating small family groups that hunt, groom, play, and sleep together.
- The father will bring food to the pups and watch them while the mother forages for her own food.
- The father fox teaches his young how to forage, he will also groom and play with them.

ZEBRA

12

BIG IDEA: Some animals live in herds with patterns that confuse predators.

Ask: What color is the zebra?

- Zebras live in herds for protection against predators, they are able to confuse predators with their synchronized movement and stripes.
- The confusing pattern of stripes on a herd of zebras makes it difficult for a predator to focus on a single animal.

CHEETAH

12

BIG IDEA: Some animals have lost a lot of their territory to human uses of land, and scientists are working to help us coexist.

- Population growth and increased land use for farming, settlements, and infrastructure have intruded on cheetah's vast natural grasslands and savannas.
- Scientists are working to help humans and cheetahs coexist, these efforts are designed to reduce human-wildlife conflict to help cheetah populations to survive.
- Scientists are helping people live safely with cheetahs by tracking their movements, studying their behavior, and teaching communities how to protect livestock without harming wildlife.

AFRICAN SAFARI

CAMEL

13

BIG IDEA: Availability of food and water can affect how an animal looks and grows.

Ask: How does the fat in a camel's hump help it survive?

- The availability of food and water affects a camel's appearance and growth, most visibly in the size and condition of its hump.
- Well-fed and hydrated camels have firm, plump humps and healthy weight.
- The hump stores fat, not water, which allows them to still get energy when there's not much food around.
- Undernourished camels lose weight, develop saggy humps, and show signs of poor health. Chronic malnutrition, especially in young camels, will stunt growth, weaken the animal and affect its overall productivity.
- A camel's access to food and water is critical for its growth and overall development.

Ask: What happens to a camel's hump when it doesn't eat for a long time?

GIRAFFE

14

BIG IDEA: Some animals have habitats that are shrinking in size.

Ask: Why might giraffes need large spaces to live in?

- The biggest threat to giraffe habitats come from human driven expansion and resource use.
- Giraffes are non-territorial animals that roam freely across vast landscapes, requiring large habitats to find enough food and water while staying safe from predators.
- As human populations expand, land is converted for farming and livestock, which destroys acacia and other trees that giraffes rely on for food.
- The growth of towns and cities forces giraffes into smaller, more isolated areas, cutting them off from essential food and water resources.
- Roads, pipelines, and other infrastructure fragment habitats and block natural giraffe movement.

Ask: Why are giraffes losing their homes?

ACTIVITY #3: CONSERVATION

EXPLANATION

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

15

Goal/Objective: Identify a way conservation scientists and communities are working to protect animals and the environment they live in.

Location: Conservation station, located by Rhino Savannah (Star 15 on map)

Topic Overview: Conservation, endangered species, habitat loss, community science

Activity Time: 20 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS

In this activity students will investigate one of the ways The Living Desert is involved with global conservation efforts and share what they have discovered with their chaperone group. They will hear from others in their group about their own discoveries as well.

Key Information:

The Living Desert is involved in local and global community programs that use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.

These include efforts to protect and restore habitats for a specific animal, working with organizations and community groups, and spreading awareness about conservation topics.

Chaperone Instructions:

Gather your group in the Conservation station to give instructions and explain the activity.

You will have them split into small groups of 2-4 students, and each group will choose one of the signs on the wall to investigate, read, and study. You will give them 1-2 minutes to read their signs and go over the information as a small group.

After reviewing their placard, everyone will come back together and take turns sharing their information with the group. Each small group's presentation should take about one minute or less.

Facilitate the presentations, making sure each group takes a turn.

If you have extra time, encourage students to ask each other questions about their information, or to research their topic more later!

📍 AFRICAN SAFARI

BLACK RHINO

16

BIG IDEA: Some endangered species are being protected by groups of people.

Ask: Why do you think black rhinos are endangered?

- Black rhinos are endangered primarily due to poaching.
- The illegal killing of black rhinos for their horns is the most significant threat.
- People desire black rhino's horns primarily for two reasons: for their use in traditional medicine and as a symbol of status and wealth.
- In certain countries rhino horns have been used for centuries in traditional medicine. It is thought to treat a wide range of conditions, but there is no evidence to support this.
- Wealthy individuals use rhino horns to display their success and social status. Horns are carved into luxury items such as cups, figurines, jewelry, and other decorative pieces.
- Organizations and national parks employ rangers and wildlife scouts who monitor rhinos, prevent poaching attempts, and arrest offenders.
- The Living Desert partners with the Black Mambas Anti-Poaching Unit and Bush Babies Environmental Education Program to support wildlife protection and expand conservation education through community-focused research.

Ask: What is one reason why black rhino's horns are desired by people?

NAKED MOLE RAT

17

BIG IDEA: Some animals live underground in colonies.

Ask: What is a colony, and which animals are examples of species that live in colonies?

- A naked mole-rat colony may have anywhere from 20 to 300 mole rats living in the underground colonies.
- Similar to a colony of ants and bees, there is one queen in the colony and all other mole rats in the colony have jobs such as gathering food, digging tunnels, defending the burrow or caring for young.
- The colonies are made up of underground tunnel systems with chambers, or rooms, branching off at different points.
- Each chamber has a purpose. For example, there is a nesting chamber and a feeding chamber used for storing and collecting food.

Ask: How many naked mole-rats can you count in one chamber?

Ask: Can you spot the queen? She will be the largest naked mole rat, and the longest!

ACTIVITY #4: ADAPTATION BINGO

DIRECTIONS

While you're visiting the zoo, try to spot the following adaptations that help animals survive.

Large ears for hearing or cooling off	Plant with thorns for protection from herbivores	Large eyes for better vision	Shell for protection from predators	Retractable claws for stealth when hunting prey
Carnivorous animal	White fur color to reflect desert heat	Bird with long legs	Bright flowers to attract pollinators	Spot or stripe patterns to confuse predators
Plant with small or few leaves to reduce water loss	Omnivorous animal	Animal that burrows to escape the heat	Dark lines or spots around eyes to help with glare	Horns for defense from predators
Large feet or hooves for support	Camouflaged animal	White-tipped tail	Rattle on tail as a warning to threats	Herbivorous animal
Long eyelashes to keep eyes safe	Thick skin for protection	Long claws for digging	Sharp quills to protect themselves from predators	Scales on reptiles help retain moisture

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

- **Adaptation:** A special feature or behavior that helps a plant or animal survive in its environment.
- **Asexually:** A form of reproduction that involves a single parent producing offspring that are genetically identical to the parent and to each other.
- **Asserting dominance:** The use of force, threats, or intimidation to reduce physical conflict.
- **Carbohydrates:** Organic compounds that provide energy to living organisms.
- **Colony:** A group of the same species living in close association.
- **Cross-pollination:** The transfer of pollen from the flower of one plant to the flower of a different plant of the same species.
- **Endangered species:** Species that are at risk of extinction due to a rapid decrease in its population or loss of its critical habitat.
- **Extinction:** The complete and permanent disappearance of an entire species of animals, plants, or other organisms from an area.
- **Forages:** To wander from place to place searching for things you can eat or use.
- **Fragmentation:** A parent organism breaks into several pieces, and each piece regenerates into a new, complete organism.
- **Grasslands:** A large area of land covered with grasses.
- **Herd:** A group of animals that live, feed, or migrate together.
- **Human-wildlife conflict:** When the needs and behaviors of wildlife negatively impact human goals, or vice versa. This conflict can arise from competition for resources. Examples: land, food, and water.
- **Monogamous:** Having only one mate at a time.
- **Native:** One that is naturally found, originates from and evolved in a specific area or ecosystem.
- **Non-native:** Animals or plants that do not occur naturally in an area, but are introduced to an area by human actions, either intentionally or accidentally.
- **Non-territorial:** A species that does not actively defend a fixed area as its own, instead shares habitats with other members of its species.
- **Offspring:** Offspring are the young ones born from living things, like animals or plants.
- **Persecute:** The killing or abuse of animals, usually by humans in response to a real or perceived threat.
- **Poaching:** The illegal hunting or capturing of wild animals, for their meat, horns, scales or other body parts.
- **Pollinator:** An animal that helps move pollen from one flower to another so plants can make seeds or fruit. Examples: butterflies and bees.

GLOSSARY

GLOSSARY

- **Savanna:** A type of grassland, found in warm places like in Africa.
- **Scavenger:** An animal that collects discarded items or feeds on dead animals and decaying matter.
- **Subspecies:** A group within a species that has become somewhat physically and genetically different from the rest of the group.
- **Synchronize:** To occur or operate at the same time or rate.
- **Vulnerable:** An animal or plant that is at risk of becoming endangered in the future.