

Classroom Connections for 1st & 2nd Grade



FOCUS: Characteristics and Needs of Living Things

EALR 1 Systems: Grade Level Expectations (GLE)

- ☞ Understand the characteristics of living organisms.
 - (2) Observe and describe characteristics of living organisms (e.g., spiders have eight legs; birds have feathers; plants have roots, stems, leaves, seeds, flowers).
- ☞ Know that most living things need food, water and air.
 - (1) Observe and record that most living things need food, water, and air.
- ☞ Know that plants and animals need a place to live.
 - (1) Observe and show how organisms live in specific places (e.g., fish live in a pond).
 - (1) Describe how animals depend on plants or other animals for food.
 - (1) Describe how animals depend on plants or other animals for shelter.

EALR 2 Inquiry: Grade Level Expectations (GLE)

- ☞ Understand how to ask a question about objects, organisms, and events in the environment.
 - (K, 1, 2) Wonder and ask questions about objects, organisms, and events based on observations of the natural world.

Before you visit the Zoo:

1. Studies show that that more familiar your students are with their field trip destination, the more prepared they will be to learn during their visit. Show students a selection of slides from our **Zoo Preview** presentation on our website at www.pdza.org. To request a CD of this PowerPoint presentation, contact us at cmccConnell@pdza.org.
2. Choose some books that address plant and animal characteristics for survival to read with your students. Habitats that students will see represented at the Zoo include the Arctic tundra, Southeast Asian forests, North Pacific rocky shores, and the Puget Sound and South Pacific coastal reefs.
3. Remind students that they will see more than just animals during their Zoo visit. Zoos are also giant gardens! Most of the plants at the Zoo are native while others are from around the world. The Kids' Zone area and the Asian Forest Sanctuary exhibits have the largest collections of non-native plants for students to observe.

After your Zoo visit:

1. Ask students to name two animals that they saw during their field trip. Have students compare these animals. How are they the same? How are they different?
2. Ask students to name characteristics that they saw such as fur, beaks, paws, webbed feet, fins, wings, claws, tentacles and shells. Discuss how these characteristics help animals to eat, move, or stay safe.
3. If you are using the FOSS *New Plants* curriculum, ask students to describe the most interesting plant that they saw during their visit. How was this plant the same as the plants they have studied in the classroom? How are they different?
4. If you are using the FOSS *Insects* curriculum, ask students to name some animals that they saw that were similar to insects. Possibilities include: Giant African millipede, crabs and shrimp.

Field Investigations at the Zoo for 1st & 2nd Grade Chaperones



Theme: Characteristics and Needs of Living Things

Dear Chaperone,

Please guide your students through the following observations. As you ask them the following questions allow them to think about their answers and encourage them to come up with questions of their own. The purpose of this activity is not for them to get all the “right” answers but rather to allow them to practice questioning and observation skills.

Explore the Zoo and Find:

- An animal to observe.
 - Where is the animal in its habitat?
 - Is there a special feeding place for the animal?
 - Where would the animal go to find shelter?
 - Where does the animal get its water?

- An animal that is more than one color.
 - How many different colors do you see on this animal?
 - Why do you think it is more than one color?

- An animal that can swim.
 - What does this animal use to help it to swim?
 - Can this animal live on land, too?

- An animal that doesn't have a backbone (i.e. crab, jellyfish, sea star, millipede)
 - Does this animal have arms or legs? If so, can you count them?
 - How do you think this animal eats?
 - How does it protect itself?

- An interesting plant.
 - What shape are the leaves on this plant?
 - Does this plant have flowers? Buds? Seeds?
 - Do you think there are animals that might eat this plant?

Taking Care of animals:

- Name at least one thing that is very important to do when you are taking care of animals.

Possible answers: Make sure they have enough water and the right kind of food. Make sure they have a place to rest. Make sure they have a place to go (shelter) to get out of the rain, the hot sun or cold weather. Make sure that their habitat is clean.