

6-12



Zoological Careers

Animal Exhibit Observations

Choose an exhibit in the zoo or aquarium to observe. Describe your chosen exhibit:

Draw your exhibit. Label the areas where the animal(s) are getting their basic needs (*food, water, shelter, space, air*) met. Please include additional comments.

Do animals living in a zoo need more or less space than those living in a wild habitat? Why or why not?

A zookeeper's job is to keep the animals in their care healthy and safe. List at least **4 ways** that they can do this:

The animals are here to be enjoyed by visitors. What are some other reasons that you think animals might live at a zoo or aquarium?

Conserve

Care

Connect

Discover

Zoological Careers

Animal Exhibit Observations

Chaperone/Teacher Guide

Dear Chaperone,

Your role is not to give the students the answers but to provide guidance and support as they make discoveries on their own. Once a student has written a “best guess” answer on their own you may share the information provided to you in this guide to help them to complete their answer. Thanks!

Choose an exhibit in the zoo or aquarium to observe. Describe your chosen exhibit:

Students should include the animal(s) being exhibited, approximate size, prominent features and natural habitat that it represents.

Draw your exhibit. Label the areas where the animal(s) are getting their basic needs (food, water, shelter, space, air) met. Please include additional comments.

Drawings should be detailed and basic needs should be clearly labeled. Students may also note any “toys” or other enrichment devices that may be in the exhibit to keep the animal(s) busy. They might also note gates for zookeeper access.

Do animals living in a zoo need more or less space than those living in a wild habitat? Why or why not?

Animals that are housed in zoos or aquariums require less space than they would in their natural environment because their basic needs are provided by their zookeepers. For example, in the wild an elephant may travel many miles each day in search of food or water, while at the zoo they are given plenty fresh food and clean water. This is also true for animals that hunt for their food. They may spend hours or days looking for prey in the wild. Since spending time looking for food is an important natural behavior, zookeepers are always looking for new and interesting ways to feed the animals.

A zookeeper’s job is to keep the animals in their care healthy and safe. List at least 4 ways that they can do this:

Zookeepers provide their animals with - clean water; a complete diet; mentally stimulating activities; a clean exhibit; opportunity for social interaction (if it is a social animal); an appropriate amount of space; shelter from weather; a secure enclosure and regular medical care.

The animals are here to be enjoyed by visitors. What are some other reasons that you think animals might live at a zoo or aquarium?

Many animals at our zoo are here because they needed a home. Some were injured in the wild and unable to return to the wild. Many of our animals on exhibit are endangered species and some are involved in global breeding programs. Some of the animals bred in zoos may be eventually released into the wild to repopulate an area where very few animals remain due to various human activities.