Dear Teacher,

Thank you for choosing to bring your students to the zoo. We want you and your students to have the best experience possible while you are here.

Studies show that the more familiar students are with their field trip destination, the more prepared they will be to learn during their visit. We hope that you will be able to take the time to share this presentation with your students before they visit the Zoo. You could also share this information with the chaperones.

Please note that the species on display may change as our staff biologists do their best to meet the needs of our animals. Therefore, the species highlighted in this presentation may vary slightly on the day of your visit.

Enjoy your walk with the animals!

Cathleen McConnell
Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium
Conservation Engagement Team
Let's get ready!

to visit the Zoo!
Hi! My name is Baku and I am a Malayan tapir. I am here to help you get ready for your trip to the Zoo!

I’ll walk with you as you find out what you might see when you visit us.

Are you ready to get started?
When you get to the Zoo

Your teacher will give you a ticket. You will put that ticket under a red light so it can be read by a computer.

When the light turns green you can walk through the turnstile.
When you get to the Zoo

You may see a peacock roaming around.

Please don’t feed or chase these birds. They like to be left alone.
The adult in your group can take a picture of this map to help you on your zoo journey.

There are maps like this all around the zoo.
Animals in the Kids’ Zone are from all over the world!

The land around the Pacific Ocean is called the Pacific Rim. You will see animals from all over the world!
The North Pacific Aquarium closed in March 2018. This building has been transformed into a behind the scenes area for our aquarium staff and is closed to visitors.

However, restrooms on the lower level will remain open.

We don’t know yet what will happen with this building. But I’m sure it will be amazing!
South Pacific Aquarium

This Aquarium will close for renovation on November 14, 2021, and remain closed for 12-18 months.
Pacific Seas Aquarium

20 minutes is the minimum recommended time to tour this Aquarium. If possible, allow your students 10-15 minutes in the Tidal Touch Zone (about halfway through the exhibits).
Pacific Seas Aquarium
Tidal Touch Zone

Here you can meet animals that live in Puget Sound and along the Pacific coast. Touch gently with one finger!

- Sea Anemone
- Sea Cucumber
- Sea Urchin
- Limpet
- Hermit Crab
- Bat Sea Star

Please Do Not Pull or Lift the Animals
Remember to Wash After Touching
SE Asian Forest Sanctuary

- Lowland Anoa
- Indian Crested Porcupine
- Small-Clawed Otter
- Malayan Tapir
- Siamang
- Clouded Leopard
- Asian Elephant
- Sumatran Tiger
- Lar Gibbon

Most of the animals in this part of the zoo rotate exhibits everyday, so you won’t find all of them. See which ones you can spot on your visit!

Hey, that’s me!
Budgie Buddies!

These small birds are colorful and fun to watch. The best way to see a budgie up close is to be quiet and move slowly.

Visit our budgie flock for free or buy a seed stick for $2, or $1.50 for members.

Note to teachers: This exhibit is seasonal. Please check our website to check see if the budgies will be accessible during your field trip.
This is where the camel yard used to be. We miss the camels, but are very excited about this new habitat for pollinators!

Little Explorers
Nature Play Garden

Opens in Spring of 2022!!
Penguins

Magellanic Penguins live on the rocky shores of South America.

I really like their outfits!
Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater

Note to teachers: Full scripted presentations occur in the late spring and summer. However, these animals make scheduled appearances on stage all year! Visit our daily presentations page to confirm times.
Rocky Shores

- Tufted Puffin
- Horned Puffin
- Common Murre
- Harbor Seal
- California Sea Lion
- Sea Otter

Watch how these animals move around in their marine environment AND on land!

I like to swim, but I’d never go in the ocean!
Arctic Tundra

- Polar Bear
- Arctic Fox
- Muskox

Some polar bears come out on the Arctic tundra during the summer when the sea ice is melted.

I could never live in the Arctic. It's too cold for tapirs!
Red Wolf Woods

Did you know that red wolves are one of the most endangered animals in the world? There were eight puppies born here in 2019. It was very exciting!

Did you know that Malayan tapirs are also endangered species.
This area of the Zoo can get really busy. Kids, make sure to keep your adult with you!

Note to teachers: We recommend saving this area until last since students will want to stay and play on the climbing structures.
Kids' Zone

- Prehensile-tailed Skink
- Bells Hingeback Tortoise
- Emerald Tree Boa
- Kenyan Sand Boa
- Corn Snake
- Emerald Tree Boa
- Green Tree Python
- Pancake Tortoise
- African Cichlids
- Giant Taillless Whipscorpion
- Black Breasted Leaf Turtle
- Red-Bellied Piranha
- New Caledonian Giant Gecko
- Giant Leaf Insect

Can you move like any of these animals?
If you would like to feed the goats it costs 50¢ for a handful of goat pellets.

Please don’t feed them any other food. They are on a special diet.

Be sure to wash your hands after you pet or feed the animals!

Note to teachers: This exhibit is seasonal. Please check our website to see if goats will be accessible during your field trip.
Plants

There are also plants from all over the world at the Zoo. We have different kinds of cactus and bamboo, and lots of flowers that bees and butterflies like!

Please don’t pick our leaves or flowers. Leave them for everyone to see!
What to do if you get lost:

HELPFUL TIP: Take a good look at your adult chaperone. Remember what color hair they have, what color their clothes are. This will make it easier for us to help you find them!

DON’T PANIC!

Find a person in a blue or green Zoo shirt. These people work at the Zoo, and they will help you find your group.

You can also ask me questions about the animals.
Can you find the 6 restrooms?

I live in this part of the zoo!
If you have time and it’s okay with your teacher, check out these other attractions:

- Plaza Café
- Gift Shop
- Carousel

The carousel costs $2.00 to ride!
On your ZOO day please.....

Keep an eye on your CHAPERONE! They would be lost without you!

Have FUN and see some amazing animals! Look for me and say hello!

Be RESPECTFUL to the animals and other visitors.....this means no yelling or throwing.

Help us keep the Zoo clean. GRAY is for garbage. BLUE is for recycling (cans and bottles only!). The café has a GREEN bin for compost.

Stay SAFE...this means no running especially on slippery paths and stairs.
For more information…..

- Information about our animals
- Things to do to help animals around the world
- Announcements, stories, and becoming part of our zoo team
- Things to do at the zoo with your family
- Directions, events, and daily happenings

I love learning new things, don't you?