

Teacher Answer Key

Instructions: You will not find the answer to these questions on signage. This scavenger hunt is designed to promote thoughtful conversation with your students. Questions and Answers are in this Teacher's Copy. We recommend you print double sided.

AFRICA LOOP

- Zoo's across the country raise money every year for rhino conservation. Do other animals benefit when rhinos are protected? How? **Rhinos are large animals that need a lot of space. By protecting rhinos, you are also saving large areas of wild habitat for other animals to use and in turn protecting those other species.**
- Okapi are the closest living relatives of the giraffes. What characteristics do they have in common? **They both have long sticky prehensile tongues and the same skin covered horns, known as ossicones, on their heads. Their bodies also have a similar shape, with longer front legs than back legs.**

AFRICAN REPTILE HOUSE

- There are several species of venomous snakes housed in this building. What precautions do you think are taken to safely keep these animals in Zoos? **Zoo Keepers use a snake hook (metal hook with a long handle) to feed and move these snakes from a safe distance. They never work alone in case something were to happen, and they keep antivenom on hand as an extra precaution.**

AMUR LEOPARD EXHIBIT

- Amur leopards are found along the border of Russia and China. What challenges could arise when trying to protect a species that lives along the border of two countries? **Different countries may have different laws for protecting animals and punishing poachers. It is also possible that the law enforcement agencies between the two countries might not cooperate.**

GIRAFFE OVERLOOK

- A giraffe's favorite food are the leaves of an acacia tree, but they will eat many other plant species as well. What challenges do Zoo's face when caring for animals that only eat one type of plant? **It can be hard to grow, or buy certain types of plants, especially eucalyptus (koala). If you run out of food, even temporarily, there is nothing else you can substitute. Zoos need to have several possible sources for the special diet items in case one can't deliver.**

RANGE OF THE JAGUAR

- When jaguars hunt a farmer's livestock, the farmer may retaliate by killing the jaguar. What can be done to prevent or reduce the conflict between jaguars and farmers? **You can deter jaguars from farms with guard animals like horses and oxen, put up electric fences, use scarecrows or other scary objects. Alternatively, you can pay farmers for each cow that is killed so they don't lose money from jaguar attacks.**
- Some people mistakenly think that bats are rodents. What defining characteristic of rodents is missing from bats? **All rodents have large front incisor teeth for gnawing vegetation, bats do not. Depending on the species, bats will eat fruit, nectar, insects, or blood.**

EMERALD FOREST AVIARY

- Many of the birds in this exhibit are piscivores (fish-eaters). What precautions do you think need to be taken when designing an exhibit with birds and fish? **The fish need to be big enough that the birds can't eat them, or stay deep enough in the water that the birds can't reach. Also, providing plenty of food to the birds makes them less likely to hunt exhibit fish.**

LORIKEET AVIARY

- Carefully watch the lorikeets in the exhibit and pay special attention to their mouths. They have a specialized tip at the end of their tongue. Describe what it looks like and discuss what purpose it might serve for the birds in nature? **The tongue has a brush like tip which is used for collecting nectar and fruit juices.**

AUSTRALIA LOOP

- The wallabies on exhibit here, much like kangaroos, are excellent hoppers. What traits do they have in common with other hopping animals such as rabbits and frogs? **They have long strong legs folded under the body with very large feet and long toes for balance.**

SAVE THE FROGS

- At the Jacksonville Zoo we are attempting to breed gulf coast waterdogs even though the black warrior waterdogs are more endangered. Why do you think we might be trying to breed the less endangered species? Read the signs for clues! **No one has successfully bred waterdogs in captivity. We are trying to breed the less endangered animals to learn better ways to help the more endangered waterdogs.**

BAMBOO GARDENS

- Koi, a type of carp, have been bred in captivity for many generations to be decorative fish in ponds. Do you think a captive koi could survive if released into the wild? Why or why not? **Koi are very large and colorful which would make them an easy target for predators. It is also possible they no longer possess proper feeding or defensive behaviors.**

ASIA LOOP

- When hornbills reproduce, the male closes the female and her eggs inside a tree cavity. Why might this be a useful behavior for bird reproduction? **It hides the mother and offspring from potential predators until the babies are able to fly and defend themselves.**
- There are some fishermen that live in close proximity to komodo dragons. What precautions do you think need to be taken when living next to a large predator? **They carry items such as rocks or long sticks to scare off animals they might encounter. They also must be aware of their surroundings at all times and not go out at night. They also build their homes on raised structures so the Komodo Dragons can't get inside.**

LAND OF THE TIGER

- Tigers are a solitary species in the wild. What challenges do zoos face when housing a solitary animal like a tiger, versus keeping more social animals like flamingos? **Zoos can only keep a few tigers because they can't be kept in a large group and each individual needs a large amount of space. This means that the overall population of solitary animals in captivity is generally lower.**

TUXEDO COAST PENGUIN EXHIBIT

- A penguin's black and white coloration is a type of camouflage known as countershading that works well for aquatic species. How would these colors help a penguin hide while in the ocean? **The penguin's dark back blends in with the ocean floor if seen from above and the white underside blends in with the sky if it is seen from below.**

GREAT APES

- The siamangs call very loudly, you may hear them as you walk through the zoo. What do you think those loud calls are used for? **Attracting mates, establishing territory, and to deepen pair bonds much like bird songs.**

- Look at the tall structure in the center of the gorilla exhibit. The gorillas can't climb these, so what are they for and why are they important? **These high platforms are for the colobus monkeys which are more arboreal and like to be higher up. It also gives them a place to get away the gorillas if needed.**

WILD FLORIDA

- Read the story of Betsy the black bear. Is it ever a good idea for people to feed animals or take them out of the wild? Under what circumstances might it be okay? **Feeding wild animals can make them dependent on people for food. This can lead to animals becoming pests with no fear of humans. If an animal is sick, injured or otherwise in need of help, it is always best to contact a local wildlife rehab facility and ask for help and advice.**
- Our Manatee Critical Care Center is meant to help animals that are hit by boats. Come up with a slogan to warn people to slow down in waters with manatees.

FLORIDA REPTILE HOUSE

- We exhibit invasive species such as the Burmese python and Cuban tree frog. What could be done to prevent more invasive species from finding their way to Florida? **Increasing checks at customs, limiting exotic pet ownership, educating people on ways invasive species may be spread accidentally.**

RIVER VALLEY AVIARY

- Look around the aviary and count the number of different duck species you can find. There are over 60 species of ducks found all over the world. Why would there be so many different types of this waterfowl? **Some may only be found in very particular or limited areas (islands, isolated lakes or wetlands, etc.). Even though ducks may appear very similar to most people, they can have highly specialized feeding habits, such as diving ducks vs. dabbling ducks.**



Scavenger Hunt



Student Form

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