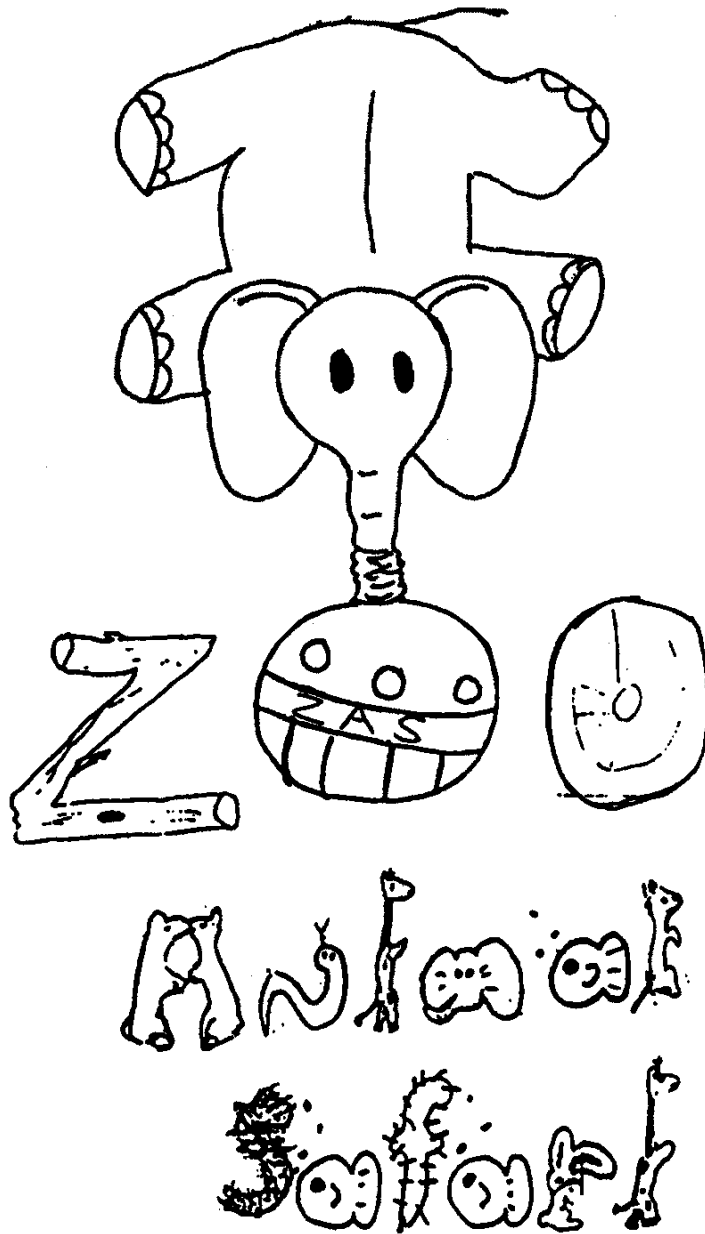


Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
Presents



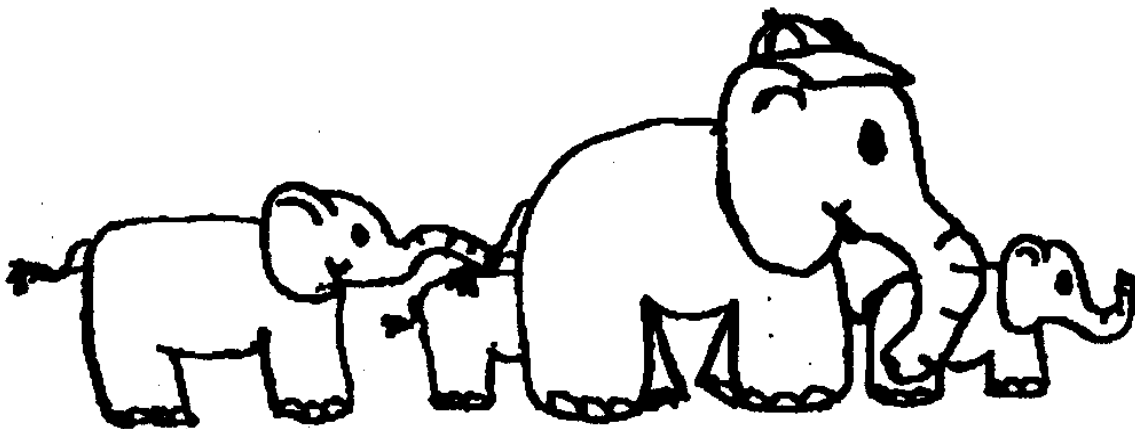
Hi! I'm ZAS.

Come with me on a Zoo Animal Safari through the National Zoo. Meet my neighbors and learn how we deal with conflict. Let us show you how to apply what you learn to your own life.

Welcome to Zoo Animal Safari.

This program was updated in 2004, it was originally designed by Senior Girl Scouts to help Girl Scouts who visit the zoo identify conflict situations and ways to avoid them. It was updated to reflect animals currently at the zoo, The program introduces them to some of the animals at the National Zoo so that they meet the animals that they learn about.

This program provides an opportunity for elementary school age girls to think individually and as a group about how and when animal behavior can apply in their lives especially in conflict situations.



Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital
4301 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite M-2
Washington, DC 20008
(202) 237-1670 or (800) 523-7898
Fax: (202) 274-2161

To order Zoo Animal Safari patches use the order form in the back of the booklet. The patches cost \$1.50. (Code 66900)

ZOO ANIMAL SAFARI

This booklet will lead you on a safari through the National Zoo. You and your friends will identify several animals and their behavior. Certain characteristics are listed for each animal. You can encourage the girls to keep a look out for other animals that may display some of these characteristics. There are Discovering Activities and Exploring Activities at each point on the safari. The discovery activities are related to the animals' behavior and home at the zoo. The exploring activities will help you explore ways that the animal behavior relates to human behavior. At the same time you are meeting the animals you will be learning about their behavior. Feel free to explore the activities in each animal area.

Requirements:

The booklet identifies ten animals and their characteristics. To earn this patch please complete two Exploring Activities for at least seven animals.

Leaders:

Allow at least two and a half hours for the program and extra time on busy days for waiting to get into the reptile house or other exhibits housed in buildings. The patch program is organized beginning at the Connecticut Avenue entrance. However, you may choose to complete the booklet in any order.

Please feel free to facilitate the questions and activities anyway you would like. You may find that the girls will need very little prompting after you have gone through a couple of the animals. If the children want to stay and observe animals, more time will be necessary, but it may be better for girls to do the program at their pace than to be rushed. When doing the program, each child should have her own worksheet with the booklet designed for the group leader.

Where the activities ask for role-plays, ideally it should be done at the zoo if there is time. There are numerous grassy spaces around the zoo, in which to sit and chat. However if you cannot do this at the zoo, these can be acted out during the next meeting as a follow up activity to the zoo visit.

Please note: The words that are in *italics* are in the glossary at the back of the booklet.



1.

CHEETAH

Selected Characteristics: camouflage and reacting passively to a situation

Find the cheetahs at the Cheetah Conservation Station located in the African Savanna.

Cheetahs are calm and do not get angry easily. The design of their coat makes them blend into the *grasslands*. *Camouflage* can keep *predators* guessing how many are in the group and which are young or old. When confronted with danger, their ability to run very fast allows them to get away. No matter how fast cheetahs go or how hard they try, they do not always catch their prey. Cheetahs use so much energy running fast that they often do not have any energy left to fight for their food.

Discovering Activity:

- a. Can you see the cheetahs easily?
- b. If you can see more than one cheetah, do they look alike? Look closely at the tails. You can tell cheetahs apart by looking at the stripes on their tails. Every cheetah's stripes are unique, just like every human's fingerprints are unique.
- c. Around the zoo, look for other animals that use clever adaptations for camouflage or to handle stressful situations.

Exploring Activities:

- a. Speed is the best protection for this animal. With your friends make a list of times you wanted to run away from a

problem. Would running away have helped the situation? Talk about when it is appropriate to run.

b. The cheetah must constantly search for food, sometimes finding none. Share how you feel when you do not achieve your goal. Think of a time when you tried to reach a goal and were disappointed. Some examples might be when you learned to: tie your shoes, count money, or ride a bike. What determines whether or not you try again?

c. This animal blends into the grasslands.



When is it best to blend into the crowd?



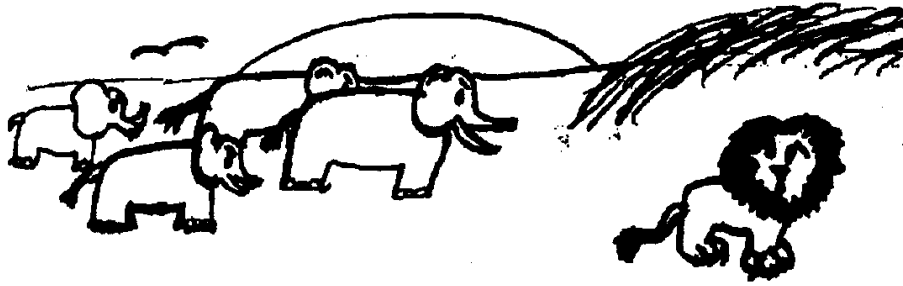
When is it best to dress so that you are different from everyone around you?

d. Look at the three examples below. With your group, decide when it is appropriate to dress each way. How would you feel if you were dressed this way and everyone else was dressed differently?



e. When people dress alike to blend in, can you still tell them apart? How?

2.



ELEPHANT

Selected Characteristics: Being a group leader and importance of friends

Find the elephants in the Elephant House or yard.

All the adults in the herd are female. Adult males come into the herd only a couple of times a year. By staying in a group, the elephants are able to protect their young from *predators*. Even big cats are careful when they approach the elephants because of the elephants' large size. Some of the elephants at the zoo weigh close to 6,000 pounds.

The leader of the herd is called the *matriarch*. In the herd, at the zoo, the leader is the matriarch because she is the largest. In other herds she might be the oldest or largest.

 Discovering Activity:

 Can you identify the *matriarch*?

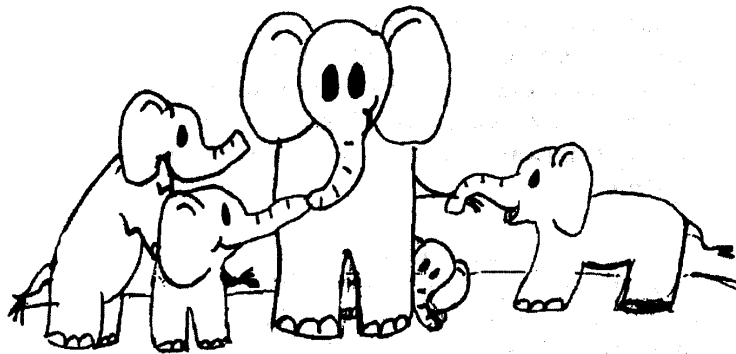
 Are all the elephants hanging around together?



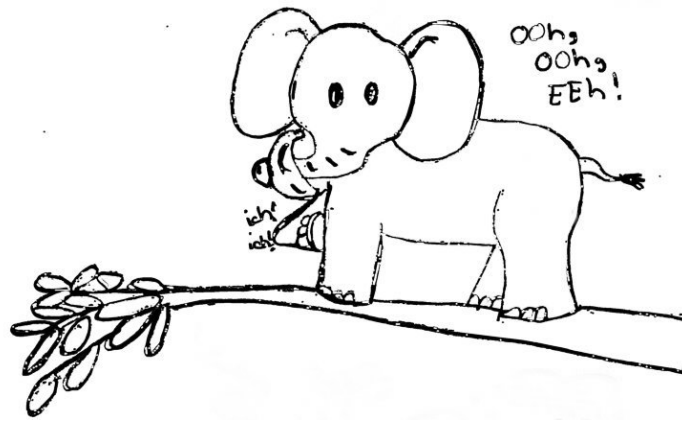


Exploring Activity:

- a. The elephant faces the world more safely in a group. With the members in your troop/group have everyone name at least one time when you faced an uncomfortable situation by yourself. Perhaps you had to talk in front of a group all by yourself. Describe your feelings.
- b. Have you faced similar situations in a group or with a friend? Describe how you felt then.
- c. Do you feel safer in a large group? Why?
- d. Is it easier to do something by yourself or is it better to form a team? List times a task that would have been easier if you had someone helping you.



3.



HIPPOPOTAMUS


Selected Characteristics: standing ground and things are not always what they seem


Find the Pygmy and Nile hippopotamuses in the Elephant House.

The hippopotamus relaxes in the water by day and grazes on land by night. Hippos are bulky, solid and look clumsy, but they are really shaped to fit both their land and water *habitats*. Nile Hippopotamuses' eyes, ears, and nostrils sit atop their heads and close when they go underwater. Hippos vary from brown to grayish purple, with pink under parts and skin creases. Their skin is very thick and is protected by a red or white excretion that serves as sunscreen, moisturizer and probably as a disinfectant. Hippos are virtually hairless, with bristles only on their noses, ears, and tail. Hippos' habit of resting in water during the day reduces energy and food demands, but the Nile Hippopotamus still requires 40 pounds of hay daily.

In 1927 Harvey Firestone (who owned a large rubber plantation in Liberia) gave President Calvin Coolidge a male pygmy hippo named Billy as a gift. Billy is the ancestor to almost all pygmy hippos living in American zoos.

Discovering Activity:

 What sizes are the hippopotamuses?

 Are the hippos in the water or on land?

Exploring Activities:

- a. While Nile hippos are usually sluggish on land, they can gallop at speeds up to 30 miles per hour. Underwater, they are graceful, "galloping" and walking on river or lake bottoms. Although pygmy hippopotamuses look relatively small and peaceful, they can be extremely aggressive when it comes to protecting their home or enclosure. Have you ever made a decision about a person by looking only at their appearance? How often were you wrong about that decision? How did you feel later when you got to know the person?
- b. Because males pose a threat to youngsters with their long teeth, female hippopotamuses attack males that wander too close. If a female begins to attack a male, he lies down to show that he means no harm. Do you sometimes find it is difficult to stand up for yourself? Have you ever compromised what you stand for?
- c. Can you think of ways people might be disappointed by their decisions? Make a list of three things you need to think about before making a decision.

4.



APES


Selected Characteristics: looks can be deceiving and understanding differences


Find the apes and other primates at the Great Ape House.

Apes look mean and strong, but looks are deceiving. They are really shy. However, if an ape is scared, it will put on a show that is sure to scare away almost any *intruder*. Apes are gentle plant-eating animals and do not hurt other animals, except in self-defense. When they approach another, they shake their head, which means that they mean no harm. Apes feel threatened when someone stares at them for any length of time.

Fellow primates *groom* each other to demonstrate their care and to give them a sense of belonging. The entire group of adult apes helps with the discipline of all the youngsters. The apes try to train their youngsters to be better adults by teaching them how to behave. When the youngsters in the group play hard and misbehave, an adult may have to discipline them by giving them a bite on the hand. They usually learn not to repeat that behavior.

📍 Discovering Activity:

 Look at the different sizes of the primates in the great Ape House.

 What three different things do you see the primates doing?



Exploring Activities:

- a. See if you can make friends with these animals. Allow apes to get used to you by standing away from the glass. Before going closer to the glass, turn around and walk up backwards. Then sit down and look at something colorful—maybe a map. If there are no crowds around, the animals may come over to see what has captured your attention. Look at them over your shoulder to be non-threatening. Be patient. It takes time to make friends.
- b. How do you feel when someone is staring at you? Do you feel uncomfortable?
- c. The National Zoo is home to many primate species. Orangutans and western lowland gorillas can be found at the Great Ape House. Orangs can also be seen at Think Tank. Smaller primates, can be found in the Small Mammal House. Look for gibbons at Gibbon Ridge and lemurs at Lemur Island. How are the actions of apes, chimpanzees and baboons similar and how are they different? Do you think they talk to each other? Do you think they speak the same language?

- d. With your group, discuss how you might meet someone of a culture different from yours or someone who speaks a language different from yours. Animals also demonstrate different behaviors. Apes like to groom each other. Most insects make sounds by rubbing body parts (for example crickets). Some humans hug, kiss or shake hands when they see each other. Talk about why it is important to learn the *customs* of cultures other than your own.
- e. Try the game “Back to Back.” Sit back to back with a partner. See if you can get your partner to draw exactly what you have drawn, using only words. Do not peek at what your partner is drawing. After taking turns giving directions, compare each set of drawings. Check the size, location on the page as well as details of how it is drawn. Decide what you could have said to make the drawings more alike. Were you frustrated if you didn’t understand? Why is good communication important?



5.

SNAKES

Selected Characteristics: protection by posturing and displaying confidence

Find the snakes at the Reptile Discovery Center, located on Olmsted Walk between the Great Ape House and the Think Tank.

Some people incorrectly believe that snakes live forever because they shed their skin. Snakes usually shed their skin as part of the growing process. They live in hollow logs and in the ground. Snakes are cold blooded or *ectothermic*, which means they depend on external sources, such as the sun, to maintain their body temperature. They are also different from other animals, because they smell with their tongue.

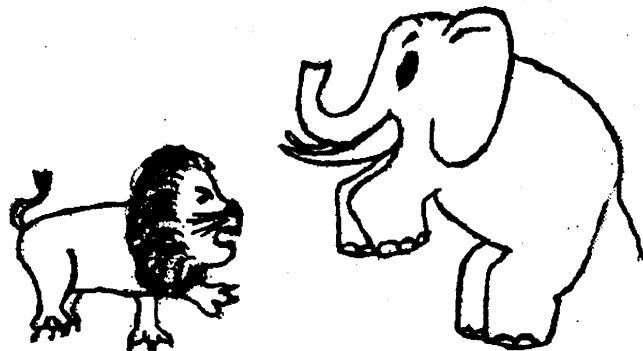
Snakes all have different ways of handling *predators*. Some, scare animals by wiggling their tails and others coil their bodies and vibrate their tails in dead leaves to simulate a rattle. If provoked, some will strike. A couple of snakes produce a yucky smell and release it on *predators* if they are picked up. The smell acts as a *deterrent*. Other snakes try to convince predators that they are threatening, by rearing their head up and puffing out their throat.

 Discovering Activity:

Look for snakes displaying traits that make them seem frightening or powerful.

 Exploring Activities:

- a. Think of some television characters that are able to show confidence and power when, really, deep inside, they were scared. What do they do to express this coolness?
- b. Share times when you have acted bravely, although you were scared. How did you feel afterward?
- c. Get together with a buddy and brainstorm situations where you would need to *assert* yourself. Come together as a group and role-play at least one way of showing confidence. Remember to think of how you can show confidence with your body composure.
- d. Have you seen other animals using body posture or body language to communicate that they are strong?
- e. One of the snakes featured at the zoo, is the cottonmouth. They are usually not aggressive and will not attack unless bothered. One of their unique behaviors is their ability to stand their ground or show confidence. When really bothered, a cottonmouth coils its body and threatens the intruder with its mouth wide open and its fangs exposed, showing the white lining of its mouth. How do you show confide



6.

LIONS and TIGERS

Selected characteristics: being strong but not a bully

See the lions and tigers in their outdoor habitats on Lion/Tiger Hill.

Tigers are the biggest of the big cats and the most social. A lion's roar can be heard up to five miles away. Lions live in groups called prides, which may include from several to 40 individuals.

Tigers live in the jungles of Asia and are the only species of cat that likes to swim. They would rather amuse themselves swimming than killing. Tiger females do most of the hunting and usually hunt in pairs. They do not like to fight, though they are very strong. Lions avoid situations that would make them fight. They are not bullies. They kill only to protect their cubs and to get food. In the wild, lions face dangers including habitat loss and being hunted.

Discovery Activity:



Are there tiger cubs? What does their play look like?

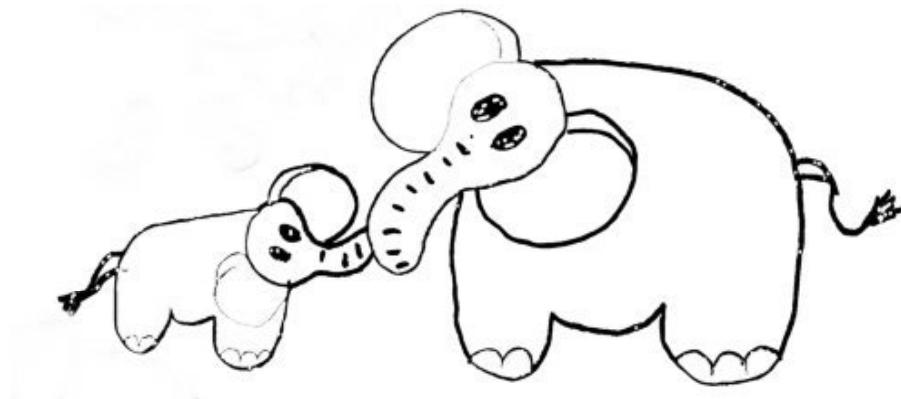


Follow the Great Cats Trail and investigate the signs along the trail.



Exploring Activities:

- a. Looking at tigers you would think they are bullies, because they are make loud roars, and have a bright orange fur. While a tiger is strong and big, they are not bullies. What do bullies look like?
- b. It is not okay to hurt another person. The person being bullied needs to know that what one person says does not make it truth and that its not okay that they are being hurt. A person that is angry or frustrated can express himself or herself in a non-violent manner. Bullies do not have to bully. Do you know any bullies at your school? How do they make you feel? With your troop/group list three things bullies do that make you feel uncomfortable.
- c. How can you show that you are strong and an individual without being a bully?
- b. Tiger cubs do not learn to solve problems and get along by themselves. Members of their pact collectively teach them. What advice did you get from your friends? What can you teach others?



7.

BATS

Key Characteristic: communication

Check out the bats in the Bat cave located near the tigers.

In the southwestern U.S., Mexican free-tailed bats roost together in large numbers. A female bat has a way to find her young among thousands when she returns from hunting for food. Each mother actually locates her own baby through recognition of its scent and call. Bats are not blind and many can see very well. Insect-eating bats depend on sound and very good hearing to find food and to get around in the dark. These bats use *echolocation*, or radar, to find their food. A bat hears the echoes and its brain works out a sound picture of the object. It can tell if the object is prey or part of the landscape.

While Westerners often fear and dislike bats, in China bats have long *symbolized* happiness, longevity, and wealth. About one-fourth of all mammal species are bats, which live everywhere except for Polar Regions and a few remote islands and mountaintops. Bats play a very important role in controlling insect populations, pollinating flowers, and spreading seeds. A single little brown bat can catch 600 mosquitoes in just one hour.

 Discovering Activity:



The zoo is a great place to find examples of communication. As you walk through the zoo, see if you can do a scavenger hunt finding methods of communication that match with your five senses. For example where can you smell communication? When you go near the Big Cats exhibit, you may smell where the cats have marked their territory.



Exploring Activities:

- a. Play the telephone game and try to pass a message as accurately and as quickly as you can. What happened?
- b. List five ways you and your friends can communicate better.
- c. What is body language? With a partner demonstrate how you show anger, fear and joy (without speaking or making noise.) Next time you see someone you know; try to read what their body language is trying to tell you about them. Do they seem confident, or nervous, or are thinking about something else.
- d. Some moths can hear the ultrasonic pulses of bats and will change their flight path or drop to the ground in order to not be captured. Others, like the Tiger moth, will click back to confuse bats into thinking they are another bat. What would happen if an animal didn't give a clear message to another animal? Why is clear communication important?

8. Two-Toed Sloth


Key Characteristics: taking some time to relieve stress by lounging about


Find the sloth in the jungles of the Amazon at the Amazonian and in the small mammal house.

Two-toed sloths move in a very slow and deliberate fashion. Most of their life is spent high up in trees. They do not like violence but they are capable of self defense. Sloths usually eat, sleep and even give birth while hanging from limbs. They are *herbivore*, eating very little other than leaves.

The two-toed sloth is covered with long, usually pale gray-brown fur (paler on the head) that takes on a greenish hue due to algae that lives on my hairs.

Discovering Activity:

 Can you find the sloths while walking through the Amazonian exhibit or the Small Mammal House?

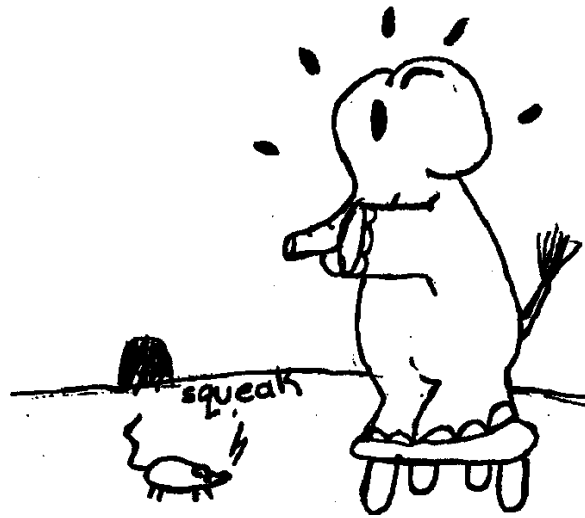
 Do you see the sloth in a tree or on the ground?

Exploring Activity:

- a. What causes stress in your life? In which situation is stress a good thing?

- b. Can stressful situations or people be avoided? For stress that cannot be avoided, is there a new way you should handle those situations?
- c. Brainstorm some ways that you handle stress.
- d. The sloth does very little physical activity. It comes to the ground only once a week. Sometimes we complain of being busy or too stressed. If you could have a whole day to do whatever you want, what would you do?

9.



BEARS

Selected Characteristics: reacting to surprise

Find the several types of bears around the National Zoo, the Sloth Bear and the Spectacled Bear.

Sloth bears are not sloths. They are bears that live on the Indian subcontinent including the island of Sri Lanka. The spectacled bear is South America's only bear; it lives in the Andes, in a variety of habitats.

Bears vary in size and color. After eating a big meal in the fall, many sleep away the winter. Many people find bears chunky, lumbering, and cute. They are dangerous, however if people or other animals surprise them, especially if they are traveling with their cubs. They will do anything to protect the cubs. If threatened, bears will stand on two legs, waving their clawed forepaws as weapons. Bears can be very dangerous to humans because they do not see very well.

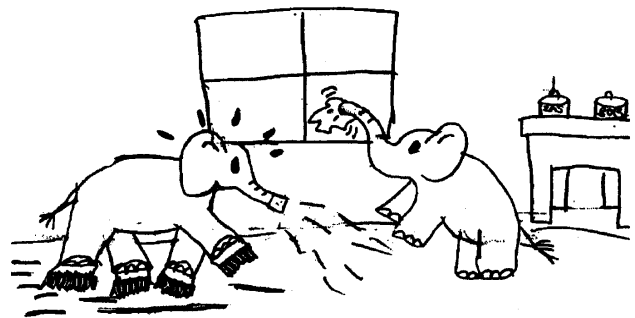
Discovering Activity:



Do the bears look cute and cuddly? Are they bigger than you thought?



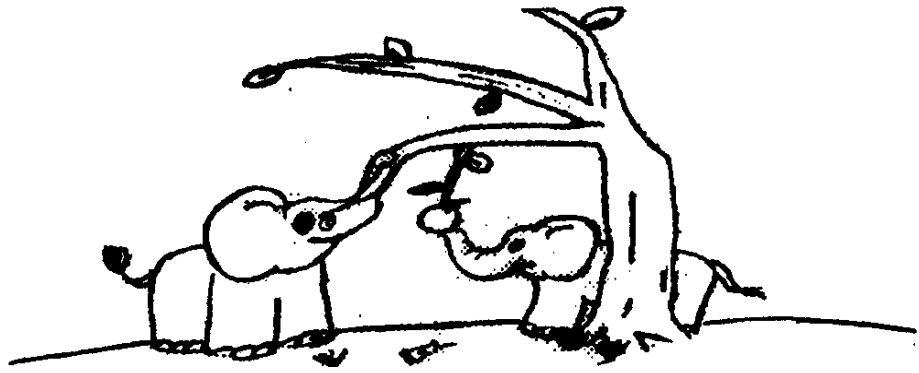
What are the bears doing?



Exploring Activity:

- a. Have you ever gotten a different reaction than you expected from an animal or a friend when you surprised them? How did you calm them down and show them you did not mean to surprise or hurt them?
- b. Have each member of your group tell of a time that they were surprised and how they reacted.
- c. Draw a picture of yourself reacting to a big surprise. What expression does your face show?

10.



Golden Lion Tamarin Monkey

Key Characteristic: endangered species and working with family

Golden lion tamarin monkeys can be found at the Small Mammal House and several tamarins roam around in the zoo.

The golden lion tamarin *species* is one of the world's most *endangered* species because humans have cut down the rain forests where they live. Tamarins live in a family group made up of a mother, father and siblings. Their family groups may live together or individually, but they always work together. Golden lion tamarins are very gentle and they communicate by making high-pitched clicking and squeaking noises. At the National Zoo, when squirrels become a problem,


Once, when the free ranging tamarins' mother was injured, the zookeepers captured her to help her, but when they drove away with her, the monkeys followed them shrieking and screaming. They are very close and dependent, though you would not guess this when you see them.

The zoo's free-ranging tamarins are fitted with radio collars so scientists can track them if they are out of sight. If they

wander too far, scientists can sound a recorded tamarin call, near the nest box to attract the monkeys back.

 Discovering Activity:

 When you see the monkeys, are they together or alone?


 What size are they? Do they look different than other monkeys?




Exploring Activities:

a. Pair up and talk about the following:

 How is your family like this animal family?


 What are the jobs in your family? Are they the same in your friends' families?


 Are chores ever the reason for conflict?


 Do you feel that you help your family by doing your share of the chores?

b. With your troop or group, make a list of the jobs you all do, then make a list of things you could do.

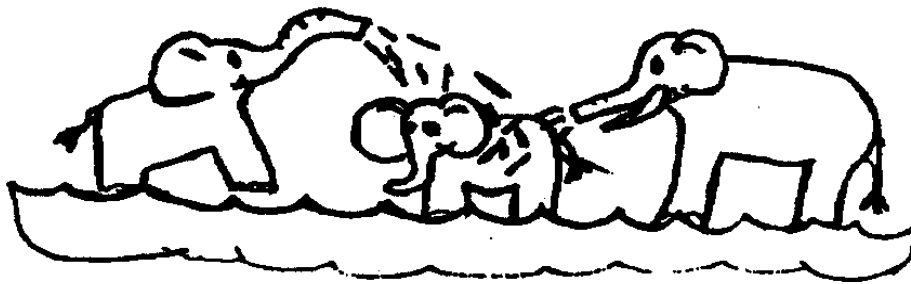
c. How are your friends like family?

 Is your friend there to comfort you when you are sad?
Are you there for her/him?

 Think of times that you have had arguments with friends. Did your friendship get better after the argument or did you lose a friend?

 Decide in each situation, which was more important winning the argument or losing the friend?

d. Make a list of ways humans have aided in *species* becoming *endangered*. How can humans help fix the problem?



GLOSSARY

assert - To state or express positively; affirm: To defend or maintain

consequence - result or outcome of your decision.

cultural - the ideas, skills, arts, tools, and way of life of a certain people in a certain time.

deterrent- something that discouraging enemy attack

desert - a dry sandy region with little or no plant life.

discipline - to train in discipline or punish.

ectothermic- depend on external sources, such as the sun, to maintain their body temperatures

echolocation- determining the location of something by measuring the time it takes for an echo to return from it

endangered- in danger of no longer existing

groom- animals clean, brush and remove dirt and parasites from the skin, fur, or feathers of another animal.

habitat- area or environment where an organism normally lives

herbivore- an animal that feeds mostly on plants

intimidate - to make afraid

mammal - any animal with glands in the female that produce milk for feeding the young.

mating - the reproduction of a species

matriarch - a woman who is the head or ruler of her family or tribe.

posturing - when animals try to convince other animals that they are stronger, more fierce or bigger by the way they appear.

predator - animals who live by killing and eating other animals.

prey - an animal hunted for food by another animal.

safari - a journey or voyage; a trip

superior - higher in rank or position.

species- individual or kind belonging to a biological group

symbolized- Something that represents something else

techniques - a way of using tools, materials, etc. and following rules in doing something.

temperaments-The manner of thinking, behaving, or reacting characteristic of a specific person.

territorial boundaries- a separating line that marks the limit of an area of land in which animals claim as their domain.

threatened - if conditions persist species will die out completely

Did you know?

Former Smithsonian Secretary, S.P. Langley, advocated the establishment of the National Zoo to serve as a "refuge for vanishing races of the continent." In 1889 Congress obliged Langley with the establishment of the National Zoo. In 1891, several bison, as well as other North American mammals, were moved from the National Mall, to become the Zoo's first residents.



Thank you for completing the Zoo Animal Safari Program.

To order the patch, please complete the order form and mail along with a check to:

GSCNC SHOP

4301 Connecticut Ave NW * Washington, DC * 20008

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Zoo Safari Patch item #66900 @ \$1.50ea

patches needed _____ X \$1.50 = _____

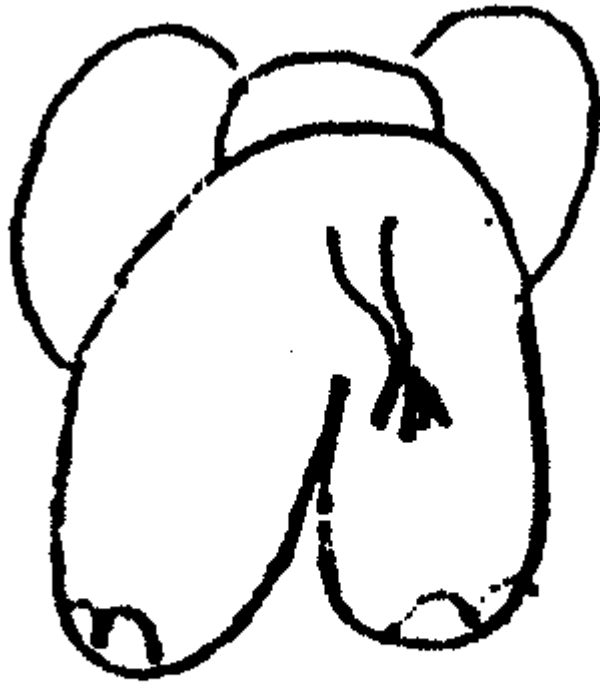
For orders of 1 – 20 patches please add \$1.50 for Shipping: _____

Total Order: _____

Patches are also available by shopping in person at the

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For more info or to place the order with a credit card please call 202-237-1670 x212



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