

San Diego Safari Park Project Kit

Congratulations! You're going to San Diego Safari Park! Use these project ideas to enrich your educational experience in the park. Read through them before you go to make sure you understand the terms and concepts, and to help you determine if you want to expand upon any of them. **You'll find fun facts and printable worksheets at the end of this packet.**

a- elementary level activity b- middle school level activity c- high school level activity

Language Arts

Watching animals in their habitat inspires the imagination. What are they thinking? What is their day like? Learn about anthropomorphism and create your own story.

- a. Draw a picture or write a story with the animals as characters.
- b. Write a short story with the animals you see as characters. Include setting, conflict, and resolution.
- c. Write a story using the animals you see for inspiration. Be sure to include setting, character development, conflict, and resolution. Also include more than one species and how they interact with each other.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawing, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Applied Math

Biologists in the field use representative areas to determine animal number estimates. Using the tools you know, try to make estimates of the number of animals in the park. Then, ask a keeper and see how close you were.

- a. Choose one species to estimate and check your answer with a keeper. Draw how you found your answer.
- b. Choose two species to estimate and check your answers with a keeper. Write or draw about how you found your answer
- c. Calculate estimates for five different species and check your answers with a keeper. Write the math you used to determine your answers.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, calculator or smartphone (optional)

Submission: Your calculations, estimations, and conclusions, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Science

Every animal has a unique life history. A “life history” is the story of an animal’s life from birth (or fertilization) to adulthood (and death). How many different ways can an animal begin its life? Are some animals more independent as babies than others? Why do you think this is? What about their lives affect how vulnerable they are when they are born? What kinds of animals raise their babies, and what kinds don’t? How does this affect how many babies survive to adulthood?

- a. Choose an animal to think about these questions for. Draw or write about your ideas.
- b. Discuss and diagram the unique life history of one of the animals you see. Write a paragraph about your findings.
- c. Discuss the life history of one of the animals at the park. Write a short essay on your findings. Then, explore zoology. What kinds of things does the park need to keep in mind about each animal's' life history when it is designing its living space and their plan for taking care of it? Does the park have breeding programs for any of the animals? What are they working on currently? Ask a zookeeper.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil

Submission: A copy of your drawings, diagrams, maps, or designs, and any pictures/videos

Teaching or learning notes:

Social Studies

We can learn a lot about the way people interact by watching animals interact. How do they talk to each other? How do they get along living in an enclosed space together? Are they naturally social or reclusive, and how do they handle those differences in personality?

- a. Spend some time watching some of the animals interact, or watching a solitary animal. Discuss why they are behaving the way they are, alone or with others. Draw a picture or write a short paragraph about your findings.
- b. Spend some time watching some of the animals interact, or watching a solitary animal. Write a short report on what you see and how those interactions are similar to and different than human interactions.
- c. Spend some time watching some of the animals interact, or watching a solitary animal. Drawing comparisons to humans, discuss the importance of social structure and a respect for individuality. Write a short essay about social ethics and etiquette incorporating principles you observed with the animals.

Materials required: Notebook, pen/pencil, park map

Submission: A copy of your writings/drawings, and any pictures/videos

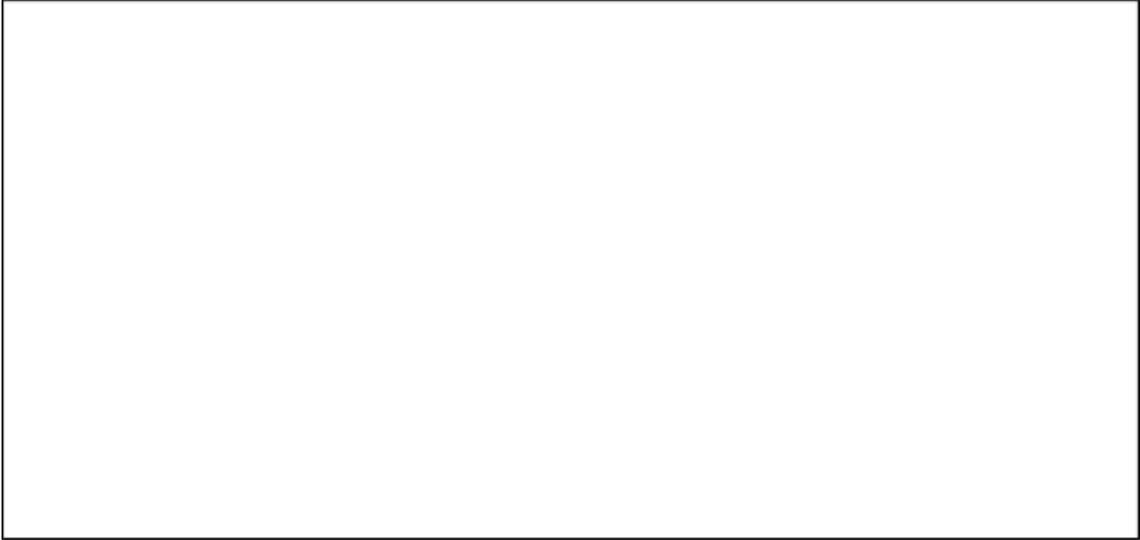
Teaching or learning notes:

FUN FACTS

- The San Diego Zoo Safari Park is home to 3500 animals from 400 species.
- The park is 1800 acres and welcomes over 2 million people annually.
- The idea of the park began as a supplementary breeding facility for the San Diego Zoo, which would allow ample space for large animals and ungulates.
- The park's largest exhibits, covering over 300 acres, are the open-range enclosures. Visitors can view various plains habitats from Africa and Asia.
- The Safari Park was a major factor in the recovery of the California condor. Beginning in 1980, it worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Los Angeles Zoo to start a captive breeding program. The last 22 condors were taken into captivity in 1987. To breed the condors quickly, the Safari Park would remove the eggs from the nests to induce the females to lay a second egg. The removed egg hatches in an incubator and is raised with a condor handpuppet to prevent human imprinting, while the second egg is raised by its parents. Captive-bred condors were reintroduced into the wild beginning in 1992, and today their population is 369, with 191 in the wild as of March 2011.
- Cheetahs are the only big cat that can turn in mid-air while sprinting.
- Cheetahs make distinct facial expressions to signal their mood.
- The name rhinoceros means 'nose horn' and is often shortened to rhino.
- Rhinos can grow to over 6 feet tall and more than 11 feet in length!
- A lion's roar can be heard from as far as 5 miles away.
- A good gauge of a male lion's age is the darkness of his mane. The darker the mane, the older the lion.
- Elephants can live for up to 70 years!

San Diego Safari Park

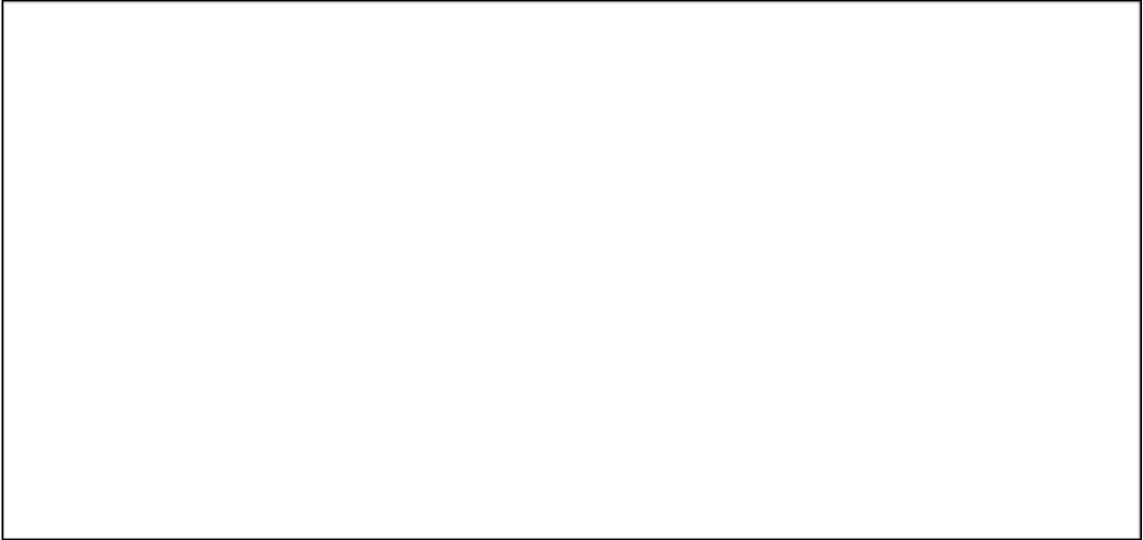
1. Draw a picture of your favorite animal at the park.



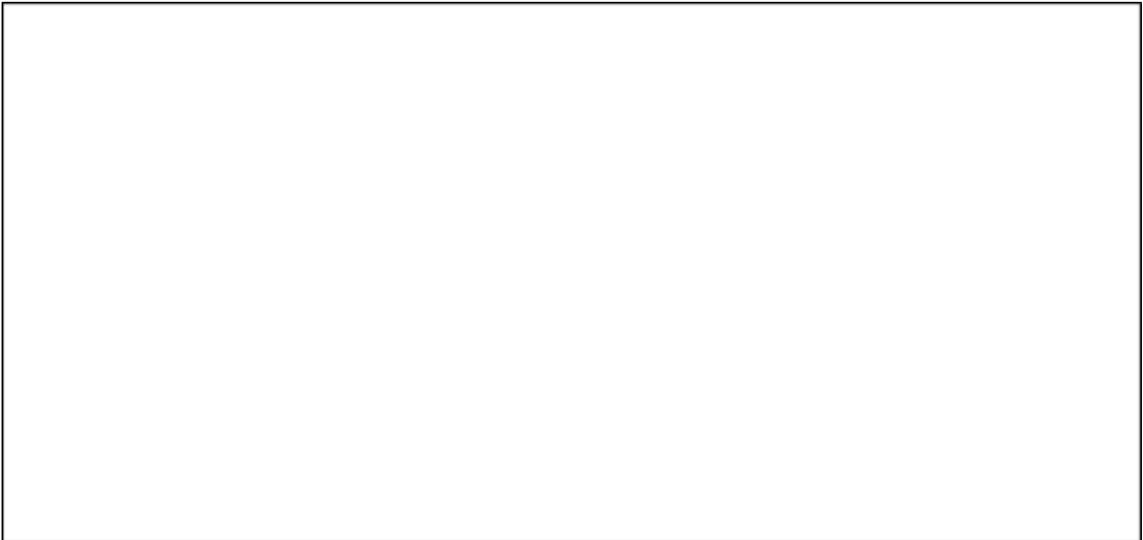
2. Describe your favorite animal, something it did while you were there, and why you love it.

3. What is one thing you learned about mammals at the park?

4. Draw or describe a bird that you saw at the park.



5. Describe or draw a reptile you saw at the park.



6. What is the difference between herbivores and carnivores?

BONUS:

Safari Park Scavenger Hunt!

- Something with wings _____
- Something that hibernates _____
- Something that is bipedal _____
- Something that is blue _____
- Something with flowers _____
- Something that eats mice _____
- Something that eats fruit _____
- Something that eats leaves _____
- Something that is diurnal _____
- Something that lives in the water _____
- Something that likes to hide _____

