

# ZOO SCHOOL

HABITATS & ADAPTATIONS

TEACHING IDEAS



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## Teaching Ideas

### PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Take advantage of our free teacher familiarisation visits. Come and have a look around and familiarise yourself with the animals and activities on site.

Learn the term 'habitat' and explore the different habitats that the world has to offer including: hot, cold and wet.

Learn the term 'adaptation' and consider the word when thinking about camels, giraffes and elephants.

Explore some of England's natural habitats such as a pond or field to investigate which animals live there.

### DURING YOUR ZOO VISIT

#### **Animal Talks**

Attend one (or more) of our fascinating animal talks given by our expert zoo keepers. The talks are 15-20 minutes long and appropriate to all ages.

#### **Animals**

Visit and learn more about some of our animals with amazing adaptations, such as our giraffes, bears, elephant, lions, meerkats and rhinos. Explore the reptile house to see if you can find animals that have fantastic camouflage!

#### **Workshops**

Book a 'Creature Features' workshop with our Education Team for a chance to learn lots of fascinating facts about where animals live and their adaptations. The workshop offers students the opportunity to get up close and meet some of our smaller animals and handle some animal artefacts.

**Contact the Education Team on: 01275 852606 for more details.**

### AFTER YOUR VISIT

Students draw (or create) a habitat for a particular animal and label it, explaining how it meets the animal's needs.

Animal challenge - students design their own animal that is perfectly adapted to their chosen habitat. This activity requires pupils to apply their understanding in order to design their own animal adapted to a chosen habitat.

Adaptation game - a pupil stands at the front and the teacher gives them an animal picture. The student with the picture gives the class clues to what the animal is by talking about the adaptations they possess. For example, "I have big ears to keep cool".

Choose 2 animals from very different habitats (e.g. polar bear and elephant) and create a 'Polarphant' and 'Elebear' who have been transported to the opposite environment and adapted appropriately, children have to think about what they would need to change about the animals if it moved habitats and describe those changes.

Students learn about the rainforest and use this habitat as inspiration for a poem.