



1st Grade - EdZoocal Adventure Guide

Theme: Eat Like an Animal

Grade level: 1st

DESE Standard: 1-LS1-1 Use materials to design a solution to a human problem by mimicking how plants and/or animals use their external parts to help them survive, grow, and meet their needs.

Overview: All creatures need to eat. Food helps them to produce energy for the things they need to do each day. Animals use different techniques to get their food. Some forage by roaming around an area to locate edible things. Some hunt by either chasing down prey or by waiting patiently for them to get close enough to grab. Some eat dead things and some eat only plants. Some animals have even been known to use tools to get food. Whatever an animal eats, it has developed different body parts or behaviors in order to get its meals.

Activity: "What do animals Eat?" Print the provided activity page. Observe the animals shown in the images. Often, you may catch them eating. If not, discuss the body parts of each animal which might indicate its possible diet. Sharp claws and teeth, for instance, are likely for eating meat. Students then draw what each animal eats in the space provided.







Activity Extension: Visit an exhibit with multiple animals housed together. Discuss what they might eat and the body parts that help them to do it. Discuss why certain animals may or may not be found within the same enclosure.

1st Grade Tour Guide

This self-guided tour takes your class along a path to exhibits with animals that have distinctive food sources. This path does not cover the entirety of the zoo, but is meant to accentuate the lesson narrative.

- As you enter, head to the right. Take the right hand curve after the Penguin Pointe sign.
- Remind students that calm, quiet guests see more animals. Loud noises send them into hiding making them harder to find.
- **Anteaters:** Our anteater, Camillo, has a very long jaw with a mouth at the end of it. This makes it easy for him to put his mouth right into an anthill or termite mound. Then, he can stick out a really sticky tongue that is about 24 inches long. Ants and termites stick to it so he can slurp them up like spaghetti noodles.
- **Big Cats:** All of our big cats are carnivores. This means that they only eat meat. They have very strong jaws and sharp teeth that they use to bring down their prey and eat them. Our tigers, Asmara and Jaya, are solitary hunters and prefer to hunt alone. But our lion pride (Ambaseli, Saphira, and Inara) prefer to work as a team. It's the females that do the hunting together; working as a team to bring down food for the whole family. "Simba" is the Swahili word for Lion.
- **Rhinoceros:** Look closely at the rhino's mouth. Jahari and Andazi, along with their baby, Kevin, have an upper lip that works like a finger. This helps them to grab onto their food, even small batches of hay, more easily.
- **Heritage Barn:** You'll find lots of different feeding types at our Heritage Barn. The pygmy goats, Luna and Eclipse, have large flat teeth that help them to grind up the hay they love to eat. The chickens will peck at the pellets of food as well as any insects that come into their space. The De Toulouse geese, Pete and Lucy, can often be seen dipping their rounded bills into their water before swallowing their food. This mimics how they use their bills to filter foods from water in the wild.
- **Elephants:** Our elephant girls, Babe, Sophie, and Zina, have that amazing trunk to help them grab their food even from high places like trees. Like the rhinos, they have a prehensile tip at the end of their trunk which helps them pick up even small things like grapes. And they don't really use their trunks like a straw, but they can suck up water into it and then squirt it into their mouths.
- **Chimpanzees:** Within the chimpanzee exhibit, you may notice a large mound with holes all in it. This is to help our chimps mimic a behavior they perform in the wild: termite fishing. Like the anteater, chimpanzees like to eat termites too, but they don't have that long face and sticky tail like the anteater. Instead, the chimps will find a nice long stick to shove into the holes of the termite mound. The termites latch onto the stick and are then pulled out. Then the chimps are able to simply lick them off of the stick.
- **Lemurs:** Our lemurs love to eat fruits, leaves, and flowers. We have three different types of lemurs here: ring-tailed, black and white ruffed, and blue-eyed black. Lemurs have a specialized row of teeth called a toothcomb. They use this primarily for grooming each other but can also use it to get into bark and seeds.

What do animals eat?

| Animal | What do they |
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INSTRUCTIONS

Use this field journal to explore the diet of the animal kingdom while on your visit to the Little Rock Zoo!

Observe the animals shown on the left and watch what they eat!

1. Look at the animals pictured on the left. Decide what food each animal eats.
2. Draw or write the food(s) that that animal eats.

CONNECTIONS:

What foods on your dinner plate would be good for these animals to eat? What foods would be bad for them? Why?

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Animal

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