



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 animals 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 either by chasing down prey or by waiting patiently for prey 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 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 to eat 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 his sticky tongue that is about 24 inches, or 2 feet, long! Ants and termites stick to his tongue so he can slurp them up like spaghetti noodles.
- **Big Cats:** All 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 and jaguars are solitary hunters, which means they hunt alone. But our lion pride (Amboseli, Saphira, and Inara) prefer to work as a team. For lions, it's the females that do the hunting together, working as a group to bring down food for the whole family.
- **Rhinoceros:** Look closely at the rhino's mouth. Kevin and his mom Andazi have an upper lip that works like a finger. This helps them to grab their food more easily. They can grasp small twigs and grasses with their upper lip. Black rhinoceros, like Kevin and Andazi, are browsers, which means they eat leaves and other parts of woody plants like trees and shrubs.
- **Heritage Farm:** You will find lots of different feeding types at our Arkansas Heritage Farm. 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 their pellets of food as well as any insects that come into their space with their strong beaks. The Sebastopol geese, Bailey and Kraken, can often be seen dipping their rounded bills into their water before swallowing their food. This is how they use their bills to filter foods from the water.
- **Elephants:** Our elephant girls, Babe and Zina, have an amazing trunk to help them grab their food even from high places like trees. Like the rhinos, they have a prehensile (grasping) tip at the end of their trunk which helps them pick up even small things like grapes. They don't really use their trunks like a straw, but they can suck water up into their trunk and then squirt it into their mouths.
- **Chimpanzees:** Within the chimpanzee exhibit, you may notice a large mound with holes in it. This is to help our chimps practice a behavior chimpanzees 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 tongue. Instead, the chimpanzees will find a nice long stick to shove into the holes of the termite mound. The termites latch onto the stick and are pulled out and the chimpanzees can simply lick them off the stick.

Name: _____



What Do Animals Eat?

| Animal: | What they eat: |
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Instructions:
Observe the animals shown on the left and watch what they eat. Draw or write the food(s) that that animal eats.

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