

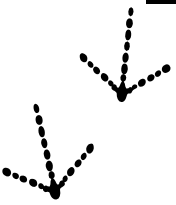
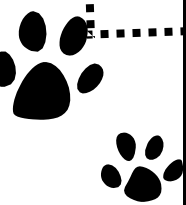
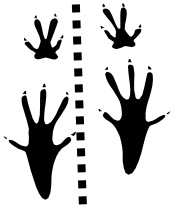
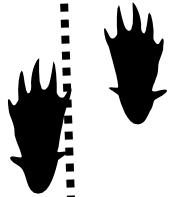
BLANK PARK



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE



**Tracks
To
The
ZOO**

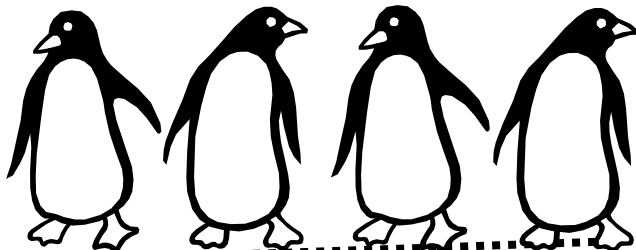


Welcome to the Blank Park Zoo

This tour guide is a collection of information about the Blank Park Zoo animals. Its purpose is to assist the teacher in planning and carrying out a successful field trip to the Zoo. Teachers can quickly acquire enough background in any one area outlined here to feel confident in presenting it to their class. **Our goal is to make teachers more comfortable using the Zoo as an educational resource.** For your convenience, it is arranged chronologically to coincide with the recommended order of Zoo exhibits.

To have a successful trip:

- ⇒ Please read over the guide to familiarize yourself with the animals that you will see on your trip.
- ⇒ Look over the map to familiarize yourself with the Zoo layout. Make special note of restrooms, drinking fountains, and first aid station.
- ⇒ **Blank Park Zoo invites teachers planning their field trip to visit the Zoo free of charge. To sign up, call the Blank Park Zoo Education Department at (515) 974-2550**
- ⇒ Take this guide with you on your trip. Both the guide and the exhibit signs are excellent resources.
- ⇒ Please remember to go over the field trip rules with your students. You are responsible for their actions and behavior while they are at the Zoo. You must have an adult for every ten students. The ratio is 10 students suggested to 1 adult.



The Animals at the Blank Park Zoo ask you to remember Character Counts!

Shinrai the Camel asks you to be *Trustworthy*. The merchandise in the gift shop, food in the vending machines and café, and admissions fees help pay for the care of the animals.



Austus the Lion asks you to be *Respectful*. Fences and guard rails are for your protection and the safety of the animals. Please respect the animals' space and remain behind any barriers. Various species of waterfowl nest on zoo grounds, please observe from a distance and respect their need for space.

Ansvar the Elephant asks you to be *Responsible*. Remember that many actions have consequences. Please stay on the visitor paths and walkways. Animals are often frightened when people chase them and frightened animals are easily injured. Please remain with your group at all times. Walking will prevent falls and injuries caused by running.



Guisto the Giraffe reminds you to be *Fair*. Take turns looking at the animals and wait patiently for your turn. Be fair to those standing in line at the hippo drinking fountain located by the Banker's Trust Classroom. Enjoy a cool drink, but Guisto says, "Practice FAIRNESS."



Karina the Kangaroo asks you to be *Caring*. The animals do not like students shouting, pounding on the glass, or teasing them. The best way to see the animals is to calmly observe them. It is okay to be excited, but be considerate of the animals' comfort. Animals often become sick or injured from food and objects thrown into the exhibits. Help us care for our animals by making sure they are only eating food the

keepers provide them. Use the designated food to feed the contact area animals.

Kupa the Bear reminds you to be good *Citizens*. Rules are created for your protection. Please obey all the zoo rules and you will have a fun and exciting zoo adventure! Good citizens help protect the environment around them. Throw all trash into the proper trash cans.



Touring the ZOO

Restrooms are located near the gift shop, in the lower level of the Discovery Center and by the food concession area at the east end of the Zoo. Drinking fountains are near the same areas. When you enter the Zoo, proceed through the alpine cabin to begin.

Myron & Jackie Blank Discovery Center

The purpose of the Discovery Center is to foster an understanding that animals, people, and plants are all part of a web of life that ties together all living things. The one connection to all of us is WATER. All animals need water to survive. Encourage students to explore the environment and how water flows through out the Discovery Center.

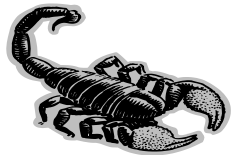
Red Panda

Red Pandas are well adapted to living in the foothills of the Himalayas with their thick fur covering their body from head to foot. They spend a lot of time in the trees to be shaded because they are sensitive to heat. A necessary part of the Red Panda's diet is bamboo, much like the Giant Panda.

FUN FACT: Red Pandas communicate by using sounds and body language such as head bobbing and tail arching.

Emperor Scorpion

The Emperor Scorpion is identified by their large pincers and the stinger on their tail. they are found in the tropics of Africa and use burrows in the ground for shelter. Even though their stinger looks intimidating, their venom is mild.



Hissing Cockroach

These insects are about 2 –3 inches long and males look different from females. Males have a pair of fairly noticeable horns on their head, while females have small "bumps." They are also known as nature's decomposers. The hissing sound that they make is a result of air being forced out of modified abdominal spiracles (black dots near their tail) Males typically hiss more than females.

Red-throated Bee Eater

When standing in the cave, be sure to look up! The Bee Eaters, found in West and Central Africa, are flying overhead. These birds catch insects in the air. Watch for their aerial displays at feeding time. Also, keep your eyes open for the Green-winged Dove, and Livingston's Turaco. Ringed Teals, and Black Crowned Heron.



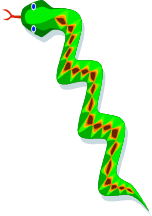
Gouldian Finches

Finches are found in the Northern tropical part of Australia. They are known for being one of the most colorful birds in Australia. They live in flocks along the coast and move inland to breed. Both the parents share duties of incubating the eggs and breeding the young. They eat grass seeds and insects. Blank Park Zoo is proud to have the largest flock of Gouldian Finches in all of the accredited institutions.

Golden Lion Tamarin

Golden-headed Lion Tamarins are native to Brazil. They are found in tropical rainforests and live in groups of 4-5. They mainly eat fruit but will also eat vegetables, flowers and bugs. Tamarins have an unusual characteristic of claw-like nails unlike most primates that have flat nails like humans.

FUN FACT: Chocolate production is helpful to tamarins because they live in the trees that provide shade to the cocoa plants.



Boa Constrictor

You might have seen them from above, from a window in the cave, but these boa constrictors are even larger when you see them at eye level. Native to South America, boa constrictors could either be silver, tan or gray in color. Here at the Blank Park Zoo, the boa constrictors eat once every 2 weeks, and they are fed 2 large rats each. They measure about 9 feet long. The longest snake was the reticulated python, measuring at an amazing 32 feet.

Water Conservation & Water Quality

Take time to explore how water is present in our daily lives. $\frac{3}{4}$ of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but only 3% of the water on Earth is freshwater. How we treat our land effects our water. Polluted water leaves little available for humans and wildlife to use. Water is essential to all living things. Animals and humans depend on healthy water for food, and drinking. All the animals in the water lab are there because water quality directly affects them. Check out the water lab to see how you can make water quality better.



Egyptian Fruit Bats

These bats are found in the tropics of the middle east, Egypt, and Africa. They roost during the day in trees and caves, and search for fruit at night. They have flat teeth to grind food and have strong jaws.



FUN FACT: Bats use echolocation and smell to navigate through the trees to find ripe fruit to eat.



Dwarf Caiman

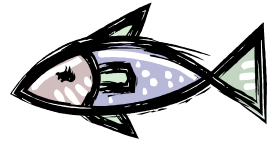
The smallest crocodilians are found in large rivers and lakes throughout South America.

They have a high skull and bony plates over their eyelids.

FUN FACT: They avoid predators and hunt by keeping their body very still so they can be mistaken for a log.

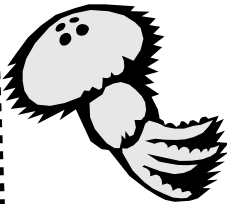
Amazon River Exhibit

In the Amazon River Exhibit, you will see Red-Tailed Catfish and the Pacu. The Red-Tailed Catfish are fairly shy fish, and zookeepers hand feed them with capelin. The Pacu are the gentle giants the Amazon River and although they look like Piranhas, these fish favor fruits and vegetables. Juvenile Pacu look very similar to piranhas, and this mimicking technique keeps them safe.



Jellyfish

As you come around the curve, you will notice a large tube like exhibit, housing numerous floating “jellies.” These are Moon Jellyfish. Jellyfish are made up primarily of water, and Moon Jellies are easily identified by the 4 pink horseshoe-shaped gonads that are visible through their bell. Moon Jellies are typically 6 – 8 inches in diameter and only slightly venomous.



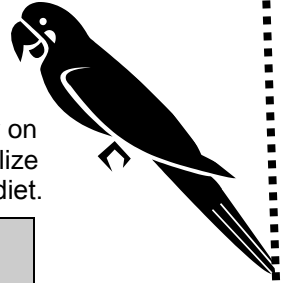
Coral Reef

Coral reefs are one of the most fragile and endangered environments. Coral reefs first began to form about 500 million years ago in warm climates. Supporting 25% of marine life, they are extremely diverse. This high diversity is partly due to the fact that coral reefs provide a wide variety of habitats, each with its own set of characteristics species.

Scarlet Macaw

These loud birds communicate by sharp cries and chattering. Nests are made in tree hollows several feet from the ground and they mate for life.

FUN FACT: They are often seen picking at the clay on the side of riverbanks. The clay is thought to neutralize the acidic nuts and fruit that make up the macaws' diet.



Chilean Flamingo Pond

A Flamingo's pink color is linked to its diet. Flamingoes have a highly specialized bill structure which allows them to filter algae and small crustaceans out of the slimy mud and the bottom of a pond or lake. To eat, the flamingo stands in water and holds its bill beneath the surface of the water. By moving its tongue, water is pushed through the bill and tiny food particles, which are high in carotene, are filtered out. Carotene metabolizes into chemicals that turn the skin and feathers pink. Female flamingoes build tall mud or sand nests with a cup-like indentation in the top. Inside the indentation, usually one egg is laid and both parents take turns incubating it. Flamingo chicks have straight bills for the first few months of their life and their parents feed them.



North American Otter

The North American River Otter is an aquatic animal related to the mink and badger. It is native to Iowa and was once almost extinct in this state. In the 1800's before there were wildlife regulatory agencies, the otter suffered from over trapping and hunting. Iowa's habitat saw a dramatic change as wetlands were drained, rivers were channelized, and forests were cut. Water pollution and chemical contamination poisoned the fish which the otter survived on. By the early 1900's, river otters were considered very rare in Iowa. In 1985, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources traded two wild turkeys to Kentucky for a few river otters. These otters were released into the wild and were very successful. Since then many more river otters have been released in the state. Someday soon, Iowans will be able to see these.

FUN FACT: The otter's body is very well adapted for swimming. Its ears can close to keep the water out. Otter fur is water repellent and it can stay submerged from 6 to 8 minutes. Some otters have been trained to retrieve fish for humans.



Australian Outback

Please ask the students to stay on the trail. A low voice, slow movements and staying on the trail will make the animals feel more secure and you can get a closer look. Watch the trail closely for tracks!

Emu

The boldest and easiest animal to detect, the Emu, is the large bird that looks something like an ostrich. These flightless birds weigh about 150 pounds. Emus are very curious and often come close to visitors. In the wild, they eat berries, grain, and insects. At the Zoo, the emus are fed a special pellet food and they graze on the grass. Several females lay their eggs in one nest. The eggs are shaped like a chicken's egg, but are much larger and a very dark green color. The male will incubate the eggs after the female lays them.



FUN FACT: Emus cannot fly, but they are good swimmers and runners.

Red Necked Wallaby

The most easily identifiable of the animals in the Australian Outback are the Red Wallabies. These small kangaroos are very timid and approach only those who are quiet and slow moving. You will most likely see the wallabies in tall grass near the building or fences. Wallabies are marsupials. A marsupial's gestation period is short, so the developing embryo called a neonate is born early in its development. A young wallaby is called a joey. In the spring, you will find many joeys peering out of their mothers' pouches or possibly out hopping around. Female wallabies are called "flyers;" males are called "boomers;" and a group of wallabies is called a "mob."



FUN FACT: A female wallaby can have three babies at three development stages, all dependant on her at the same time. One developing in the womb; one in the pouch; and one who has left the pouch but who still returns to nurse.

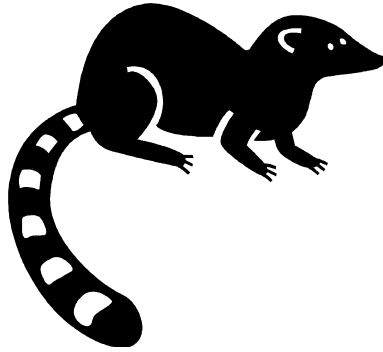
Aviary

In the bird aviary, there are no barriers between you and the birds. You can learn a lot about a bird just by observing it. Look at the feet. Some feet are designed for swimming; some for perching; some for wading; and some for catching prey. A bird's beak can tell you about what the bird eats. Some beaks crack open seeds; some can filter food from water; some are designed for ripping and tearing prey.



In the aviary look for the gray peacock pheasant, a ground dwelling bird with spots on its feathers that are similar to those of peacocks; the black capped lory, a small red parrot-like bird; the crested pigeon, and several species of Australian waterfowl.

FUN FACT: Birds' bones are hollow. Human bones are solid. A hollow bone is much lighter which helps explain why birds can fly and humans can't.

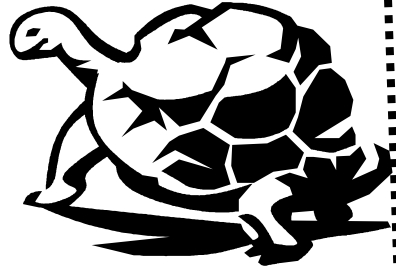


Ring Tailed Lemur

Ring Tailed Lemurs are primates from the island of Madagascar. Madagascar is one of the largest islands on Earth, and it is located just east of Africa in the Indian Ocean. Ring Tailed Lemurs are very social animals and live in groups. They are often seen grooming one another or playing. A lemur suns itself by stretching out its body and leaning back on its tail with its nose pointed to the sun. Lemurs eat leaves, fruit, plant parts and occasionally insects.

FUN FACT: The word "lemur" comes from the ancient Romans who referred to their deceased ancestors as "lemurs." They believed that these "ghosts" watched over the living with glowing eyes.

Aldabra Tortoise



The Aldabra Tortoise is found on a small island called Aldabra, which is east of Africa and north of Madagascar. These tortoises were at one time found on many islands near Aldabra, but they were hunted to near extinction to provide food for many ships which passed through the area. The Aldabra islet has very jagged rock, which was often fatal for tortoise hunters from the ships. This rugged landscape was responsible for the survival of the giant tortoise on Aldabra. The Aldabra Tortoise is omnivorous. In the wild they eat green leaves, berries, and some carrion. They can live to be around 150 years old and weigh over 500 pounds.



Black Tailed Prairie Dogs

These social rodents are a relative of the squirrel. Prairie Dogs are native to the great plains where they build large towns which can cover many acres of land. These towns often contain several thousand animals. Each town is broken up into smaller groups called coterie. The coterie is the base unit of prairie dog life and consists of one adult male and two to four females and their young. A prairie dog's burrow is extensive. Each burrow has a mound built all around the entrance. Inside the burrow there are several rooms: food storage room, nursery, bathroom and sleeping quarters. The whole social system of the prairie dog is dependant of communication, which consists of body movements and sounds.

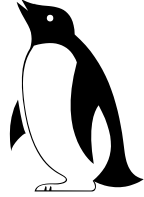
Kids Kingdom (contact area)

Exciting new playground with lots of fun experiences for kids. Come have fun on the animal shaped equipment. Slide down the trunk of an elephant. Measure up to the height of a giraffe. Dig in the sand around dinosaur bones and go mining for gems. The animals in this area are all domesticated and are adjusted to human contact. You are welcome to touch and feed these animals. Be sure to look for the Japanese Koi, a colorful carp which can be found under and around the pond viewing deck.

Magellan Penguins

There are 18 species of penguins, all of which live in the Southern Hemisphere. Their environments range from the frozen waters of the Antarctic, North to the Galapagos Islands where temperatures can reach above 100 degrees F. Magellan Penguins are from the southern tip of South America where the climate is temperate. They are often found in very large colonies.

A penguin's feathers are very similar to shingles on a roof – each one overlaps another forming a watertight barrier keeping the penguin's soft down feathers dry. Penguins eat small fish and squid, both in the wild and at Blank Park Zoo. Penguins have a very sharp beak which is lined with backward pointing spines to help them hang on to their slippery prey.



Marine Mammal Pool

There are two species in the pool: seals and sea lions. Seals and sea lions are called pinnipeds. the word "pinniped" means fin-footed. Both of them have a very thick, soft fur coat. These animals are fed fish and squid several times a day.



California Sea Lion

The Sea Lion Can be recognized by the ear flaps on the sides of their head, and when they are out of the water they can bring their front flippers underneath their bodies and pull themselves up into a tripod position.

Harbor Seal

The Harbor Seal can be recognized by the spots on their body. They have no ear flaps and when they're out of the water they move around on their bellies.

FUN FACT: Seals and sea lions are capable of holding their breath for 20 to 40 minutes underwater.

Big Cats Exhibit

African Lion

Lions are the only big cats that are social. All other big cats are solitary – they live and hunt alone. Lions live in groups called "prides." In the wild, a lion can eat as much as 40 pounds of meat at once. At the Zoo, the lions are fed a special ground meat with added vitamins and minerals.

FUN FACT: A lion's roar can carry for more than 5 miles.



Snow Leopard

Snow Leopards are native to the remote and rugged mountains of Asia. They are solitary animals that are constantly covering a territory of 8 to 25 square miles in search of prey. They were nearly extinct in the late 1970's from over hunting.

FUN FACT: The snow leopard's long tail provides stability along narrow edges. They have one of the longest tails in the cat family proportionate to their size.



Siberian Tiger

Tigers are solitary animals and therefore, hunt and live alone. There are six different races of tigers which once roamed Asia from the warmest southern part to the coolest northern part. All species of tigers are endangered. Siberian tigers are the largest of all the races and the largest of all cats. A male tiger usually weighs about 420 pounds

and is about 7 feet long. Females are usually smaller than the males. Tigers must be very strong to kill their large prey and drag it to a suitable place to feed. These animals need a lot of meat to survive. In the wild, a tiger must kill about 70 deer each year. It can eat approximately 100 pounds of meat if it is really hungry. The leftover meat is dragged into the bush and buried in the ground for the next time it is hungry. At Blank Park Zoo the tigers are fed a special ground meat which has added vitamins and minerals.

FUN FACT: Most cats don't like to get wet, but tigers love to play in the water.

White –Handed Gibbon

Gibbons are from the rainforests of Southeast Asia. They spend most of their lives high in the dense of foliage of the trees. Their scientific name (Hylobates) means “dweller of trees.” They move through the trees by swinging one arm over the other. Instead of grasping each limb in their hands, they use their hands like hooks, allowing a gibbon to span 10 feet in a single swing.

FUN FACT: Gibbons communicate with one another by “hooting.” This loud, unusual sound can carry for several miles around the forest. Gibbons live in families of two parents and their young up to around age 6 or 7.



African Boardwalk

Serval



These small cats are nocturnal animals and spend most of the day sleeping. Servals have specially adapted bodies for hunting at night. A serval's ears are large and its eyesight is very acute in the dark. The servals' body is compact and light, therefore, it is able to run very fast and leap in the air. Servals eat rabbits, small antelopes, fish and birds (which can be caught in flight). At the Blank Park Zoo they eat a special ground meat that has added vitamins and minerals.

FUN FACT: The serval's pupil is a vertical slit like the pupil of a domestic cat. The pupil of the tiger's, lion's, and other big cats is round, like a human's.

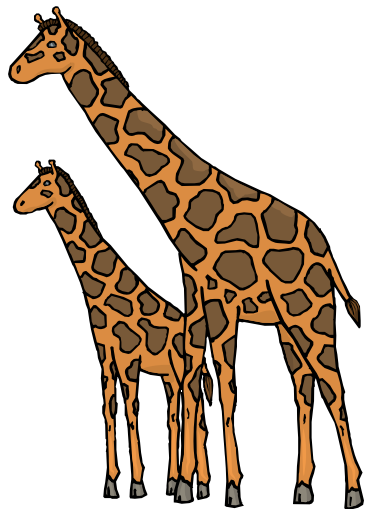
Reticulated Giraffe

There are nine races of giraffe, however, they are all the same species. The different races are identified by the markings on their fur. Blank Park Zoo has reticulated giraffes. This race is identified by the large dark spots that are close together. Other races have spots that are farther apart or are different shapes. All of these races can be interbred and form a hybrid. Reticulated giraffes are found in East Africa on open plains that have few trees.

The giraffe is the tallest land mammal. Male giraffes can grow as tall as 17 feet, and weigh as much as 3,000 pounds. That's almost as tall as a two-story building. In the wild, giraffes eat leaves primarily from acacia trees. At Blank Park Zoo our giraffes eat twenty pounds of grain and one bale of hay every day. They also keep the trees around their exhibit neatly trimmed.

FUN FACTS: A giraffe's neck can be 6 ½ feet long. A person's neck is less than a foot long. Although the length of the necks are very different, a giraffe and a person have the same number of neck bones – 7. The female giraffe gives birth standing up, so when a baby giraffe is born is slides 5 to 6 feet to the ground.

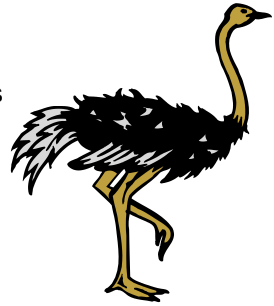
Giraffe feeding is seasonal. Check event schedule for times. Fee- \$1.00 for 1 or \$5.00 for 6 crackers.



Ostrich

The ostrich is the largest bird in the world, standing at about 9 feet and weighing 140-290 pounds. Ostriches are flightless birds with powerful legs. Contrary to popular belief, the ostrich does not bury its head in the sand when threatened by predators, instead it will run away or kick. An ostrich can run up to 45 mph. When lying down, the ostrich will lay its neck and head along the ground, appearing to be a mound of earth to predators. Ostriches are herbivores with a diet consisting of seeds, shrubs, grasses, fruit and flowers.

FUN FACT: An ostrich egg weighs 20 times more than a chicken egg. Although it is the largest egg of any animal, it is the smallest relative to the size of the adult.



Japanese Macaques

Japanese Macaques are also called “snow monkeys” because of the cold, snowy region in Japan where they live. They have a dominance hierarchy which is the basis of their social system. The most dominant animal is the largest male. He is allowed the choicest foods and oversees the entire group. He is in charge of protecting and defending all the other monkeys. Each monkey has a status in the “pecking order.” When a conflict arises, the more dominant monkey will chase the subordinate. Have your students see if they can find the dominant male.



THINGS TO DO AT THE ZOO.....



Wild Things Gift Shop

Don't miss out on Wild Things Gift Shop where you'll find a variety of shirts, stuffed animals, and souvenirs. Restrooms are located directly south of the gift shop.

Safari Grill

Stop at the Safari Grill and take a break. The grill offers a wide variety of food, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken fingers, ice cream and soft drinks. Restrooms are located just north of the grill. Only open May-August.

Train

The train tours around the contact area, behind the lions and tigers, makes a loop by the African boardwalk and returns to the station. The cost is \$2.00 per person. Seasonal: Open May-September

Camel Ride

You can ride the camel for \$4.00. The camel is seasonal from May-August.

Kids Kingdom Exciting new playground with lots of fun experiences for kids. The animals in this area are all domesticated and are adjusted to human contact. You are welcome to touch and feed these animals. Feed can be purchased by the handful up to a bucket full.

Giraffe Feeding

Giraffe feeding is seasonal. Hours are during the months of June- August at designated times. The cost is \$1.00 for 1 cracker or \$5.00 for 6 crackers.

Seal/ Sea Lion Demonstration

Come see the seal and sea lions training demonstrations. The show times are at 11:30 AM and 3:30 PM.

Penguin Feeding Demonstration

Penguin feeding is at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Prices and times subject to change.

Glossary

Adapt – To change to survive in a particular environment

Adaptation – An inherited characteristic that helps an organism survive in a particular environment.

Amphibian – A “cold-blooded” animal that usually lives in water when young and mostly on land as an adult; usually has smooth, moist skin, breathes through gills when young; develops lungs as an adult and lays jelly-like eggs

Aquatic – Living in or upon water

Behavior – An organism’s response to stimulation

Burrowing – Animals living in holes or dens in the ground

Camouflage—The color, shape or pattern of an organism that helps it blend into its surrounding

Carnivore – An animal that eats other animals

Cold-blooded – An animal whose body temperature varies with the outside environment (poikilothermic)

Crustacean – An arthropod (insect relative) that has two pairs of antennae, 5 or more pairs of legs, a skeleton outside of its body and usually lives in water

Diet – The food the animal eats

Diurnal – Active mainly during daylight, rest during night

Domestic—Animals which have been bred to serve humans as pets, livestock, or for labor

Dorsal – Pertaining to, or situated near, the back

Embryo – the earliest stages in the development of an animal, before it has assumed its distinctive form

Environment – All the physical, chemical and biological factors to which an organism is subject

Food Chain – A series of steps of eating and being eaten through which energy produced by plants is passed along from animal to animal

Food Web – An interlocking pattern of several food chains

Fur - Thick hair, usually composed of a soft, dense under fur layer and longer, coarser outer guard hairs

Habitat – A place where an animal or population of animals normally finds food, water, shelter, and space

Herbivore – An animal that eats plants

Hibernate – To pass a period of cold in a condition which body temperature drops and metabolic activity slows

Insectivore – An animal that eats insects

Instinct – An inherited type of action, invoked by a certain stimulus and often of complex nature

Invertebrate – An animal without an internal backbone; arthropods, such as insects and crustaceans, and mollusks, like slugs, are examples of invertebrates

Larva – The immature stage of an animal that changes into a very difficult adult form; some amphibian young and many insects are larvae

Mammal – A member of the vertebrate category distinguished by hair, milk-producing glands in females, and warm-blooded

Marsupial – An order of mammals whose females carry undeveloped young in a pouch

Metamorphosis – The process of change from one form to another very different form; many insects and amphibians undergo metamorphoses to become adults

Migration – The seasonal movement from one place to another made by many birds and other animals

Molt – The shedding of an outer layer of covering that is soon replaced by a new layer

Native – Indigenous to a particular region or country

Nocturnal – Active at night

Nymph – The immature form of an insect that doesn't have a pupil state, it will develop into a similar looking adult

Omnivore – An animal that eats plants and animal material

Parasite – An organism that lives on or in another, more or less at the expense of the host

Population – A group of animals of the same species within a given area and which all (potentially) can breed with each other

Predator – An animal that kills and eats other animals

Prey – An animal killed and eaten by another animal

Range – The area over which an individual animal or population travels to find food, shelter and mates

Reptile – A “cold-blooded” animal with dry, scale-covered skin that lays eggs

Rodent – A mammal characterized by large front teeth (incisors) for gnawing or nibbling; beavers, rats and mice are rodents

Scavenger – An animal that eats meat (often decayed) from a dead animal that it did not kill

Species – The basic category or biological classification. The subdivision of a genus or sub-genus. A species is composed of related individuals that are able to breed among themselves under natural conditions, producing fertile offspring

Taxonomy – The science of classifying organisms in established categories

Temperate – Neither very hot nor very cold

Terrestrial – Belonging to or living on the ground or earth

Vertebrate – Animals having a spinal column or vertebra

Warm-blooded – An animal that maintains a relatively constant and warm body temperature independent from the outside environment (homothermic)

Scavenger Hunt

Animals in the Discovery Center

We have long tails,
In the wild we are few.
We have lots of thick fur,
And we love bamboo.
What are we? R _ _ _ a _ _ a

Awake mainly at night,
Fruits are what I eat.
I am the only flying mammal,
And flying is such a treat!
What am I? _ r _ _ t B _ _

We ssslither and ssslide around,
And sssqueeze to kill our prey.
We are from South America,
And can be silver, tan or gray.
What are we? _ o _ C _ _ _ _ _ _ t _ _ s

We are small and furry,
We jump from tree to tree.
We spend a lot of time playing.
What are we?
G _ _ _ _ n _ _ _ _ t _ _ a _ _ _

Outside Exhibits

I am gregarious and like to
Stand on one leg.
I may sit on a mound or stand
Along the shallow water's edge.
What am I: C _ i _ _ _ _ _ _ a _ _ n _ o

I fly through the water,
As swiftly as you can see.
Fish are what I prefer,
There are many others just like me.
What am I? M _ _ e _ _ _ _ _ _ e n _ _ _ n

I am often quite playful,
And you will find me in streams,
I eat clams, fish and mussels,
And live in twos or threes.
What am I? N _ _ _ t _ _ A _ _ _ _ c _ _
R _ _ _ r _ _ t _ _

Africa is where I am from,
And live in a group called a pride.
You may hear me roar.
But sometimes, I blend in to hide.
What am I? A _ _ _ c _ _ _ _ o _

I swim in the water,
And weigh hundreds of pounds.
My walk is funny,
And I make grunting sounds.
What am I? _ e _ _ _ o n

The largest of all cats,
And live where it is cold.
There are few of us left in the wild,
Less than 400, I was told.
What am I? S _ b _ _ _ a _ _ _ g _ r

You can find me swinging in the canopy,
And hear me sing and howl.
My hands are colored white
Can you see them now?
What am I? W _ _ _ _ - H _ _ _ _ d _ _ b _ _

I live where it is cold,
You can tell by my fur.
I have unique spots,
I can pounce and cause a stir.
What am I? _ _ _ w _ _ _ p a _ _

My face is pink
I am found where it is cold.
I live in a group called a troop,
So I am often times quite bold.
What am I? _ n _ _ M _ _ q _ _ s



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

