A red panda is shown in profile, standing on a wooden fence. The panda has reddish-brown fur with white markings on its face and ears. The background is a blurred green forest.

**THERE'S A  
LOT MORE  
TO LEARN AT**

 **Hamilton Zoo**

# **Zoo Theme Unit**

**Activities for junior  
students**

# Zoo Song Book

**Curriculum Links - English – Music**

**Objectives:**

- To learn what different types of zoo animals look like.
- To learn descriptive words.

**Materials:**

- Large Paper sheets
- Markers
- Magazine pictures of animals in the zoo

**Plan:**

Decide which verses from the song below to use in your book.

Write each verse on a large sheet of paper and find a picture of that animal in a magazine and glue it in the book.

*I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me an elephant... He was too big so I sent him back!*

*I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me a tiger... He had too many stripes so I sent him back!*

*I wrote to the zoo to send me a pet. They sent me a monkey... He was too jumpy so I sent him back!*

Make up your own verses and add them on!

**Variations:**

- Get students to come up with their own animal and write the verse for the song. Students can then illustrate their own verse.
- Come up with a verse for each letter of the alphabet.
- Brainstorm a list of descriptive words for each animal.

# Animal Alphabet

**Curriculum Links - English**

**Objectives:**

- To learn what different types of zoo animals look like.
- To learn descriptive words.
- Reinforce letters of the alphabet

**Materials:**

- Large Paper sheets
- Markers
- Magazine pictures of animals in the zoo
- Alphabet book (one that has a sentence for each letter is good)

**Plan:**

Encourage students to bring in Alphabet books from home/library.

As a class look at these books together and discuss how they are set out.

Let the children select pictures of animals for an assigned or chosen letter of the alphabet, glue them on their paper, and write the letter underneath.

Make into a book or display on a wall. Revisit this book throughout the year.

**Variations:**

- Get students to write a sentence to go with their letter of the alphabet. This could have a given format e.g. poem.
- Find out facts about their animal and record these on their page.
- Brainstorm a list of descriptive words for their animal.
- Get students to share their page to the rest of the class.

**Related Books:**

Ape in a Cape : An Alphabet of Odd Animals  
Eating the Alphabet: Fruits & Vegetables from A to Z

# Animal Cages

## Curriculum Links – Visual Art

### Objectives:

- To recreate an zoo animals cage
- To use fine motor skills (cutting/colouring/threading)

### Materials:

- Polystyrene Tray
- Wool/String
- Colouring materials
- Skewer

### Plan:

Draw pictures of animals at the zoo and cut the animals out. Glue onto the tray.

Punch Holes into the tray along the top and bottom with a skewer. Tape the string/wool on the back of the tray/cardboard and thread through holes to make bars.



### Variations:

- Find pictures in magazines rather than drawing them.
- Use a rectangle piece of cardboard and punch holes in with hole punch.
- Decorate the cages by adding trees, enrichment toys etc
- Turn this into an animal train by making an engine and adding wheels to the cages.

# Picture Books

Dear Zoo - by Rod Campbell

Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do You Hear? - by Bill Martin Jr.

Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What do You See? - by Bill Martin Jr.

Barney Goes to the Zoo - by Linda Cress Dowdy

Who's New at the Zoo? - by Ron Berg

Spot Goes to the Circus - by Eric Hill

What do Zenra's Do? - TickTock Books Publishing

Little Gorilla - by Ruth Bornstein

Who's Hiding at the Zoo? - by Christiane Gunzi

Hug - by Jez Alborough

Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too? - by Eric Carle

From Head to Toe - by Eric Carle

Curious George Goes to the Zoo

Class Two at the Zoo - by Julia Jarman

Zoo - by Anthony Browne

Zoo Looking - by Mem Fox

Little Yellow Digger at the Zoo - by Betty Gilderdale

ABC Zoo - by Rod Campbell

Buster's Zoo -by Rod Campbell

ABC Animal Rhymes for You and Me - by Andrease and David Wojtowycz

# Animal Differences (Thinking Game)

## Curriculum Links – Literacy

### Objectives:

- To be able to identify differences between animals
- To reinforce descriptive language

### Materials:

- Animal Picture Cards

### Plan:

Put three different cards of photos of animals and let students guess which one doesn't belong.

#### Examples:

- animals that have feathers vs. fur
- animals that live in the ocean vs. animals that fly or live on land
- animals with hooves vs. animals with webbed feet
- animals with stripes vs. animals with spots
- animals with long tails vs. little tails
- animals with beaks vs. animals with snouts, etc.

Teacher Says : “One of These Things is Not Like the Other, One of These Things Just Isn't the same.”

Children try and work out what is the odd one out and why.

### Variations:

- Instead of photos you can use small plastic animals.
- Differences could include where they live and also what they eat.
- Older kids could use the pictures to play 'Headbands' – place animal on kids' forehead. The child asks questions to find out what animal they are. Other kids can only answer yes or no.
- Sort Animals into like groups.

# Animal Antics (Movement Games)

## Curriculum Links – Physical Education, Health

### Objectives:

- To act out descriptive words
- To participate in a variety of creative games

### Materials:

- Bell / whistle

### Games:

**Jump Like Me** - Students move across the room like an animal-slither like a snake, gallop like a zebra, waddle like a penguin, crab walk sideways, jump like a kangaroo, pounce like a tiger, stomp like an elephant, etc.

**Feeding Time** - The teacher is the zoo keeper. All the animals (students) are asleep. The zoo keeper rings the bell. It's feeding time at the zoo. All the animals wake up and move around. Then they go back to sleep again!

**Animal Round Up** – Students are given an animal name tag. Have one student that is a farmer and one that is a zookeeper (have more farmers or zookeepers to make it easier). When a farmer or zookeeper tags an animal, the animal must go home to the farm or to the zoo (depending on where it belongs). Note: Farmers and zoo keepers can only tag animals that belong to them. If a farmer tags a zoo animal, for example, the animal remains free.

# Animals on the Bus

## Curriculum Links – Drama, Music

### Objectives:

- To be able to express animal sounds in a variety of ways
- Use drama to tell a story

### Materials:

- Paper towel rolls
- Equipment to make animal masks
- Chairs

### Plan:

Make binoculars out of towel rolls cut in half and stapled together.

Each child is to become a different animal. Get students to make an animal mask.

Make a bus by using class chairs.

Using the song 'Wheels on the Bus'. Turn words into 'Animals on the Bus go.....and give students the chance to act out their part and put in their own sound.

### Variations:

- You could adapt the song 'We going to the zoo' and get students to use their animal mask to act out his song.
- Use musical instruments to help with sounds.

# Animal Songs

## The Animal Fair

I went to the animal fair,  
The birds and the beasts were there,  
The big baboon by the light of the moon  
Was combing his auburn hair,  
The monkey bumped the skunk,  
And sat on the elephant's trunk;  
The elephant sneezed and fell to his knees,  
And that was the end of the monk,  
The monk, the monk, the monk,  
The monk, the monk, the monk.

## Zoo

("Skip to My Lou")  
Zoo, zoo, who's in the zoo?  
Zoo, zoo, who's in the zoo?  
Zoo, zoo, who's in the zoo?  
Who's in the zoo to visit?  
Monkeys swinging on a tree,  
Sheep and lions grazing free,  
Tall giraffes, a sight to see-  
All in the zoo to visit!

## One, One, the Zoo is Lots of Fun

Written By: Unknown  
Copyright Unknown  
One, one,  
The zoo is lots of fun  
Two, two,  
See a kangaroo  
Three, three,  
See a chimpanzee  
Four, four,  
Hear the lions roar  
Five, five,  
Watch the seals dive  
Six, six,  
There's a monkey doing tricks  
Seven, seven,  
Elephants eleven  
Eight, eight,  
A tiger and his mate  
Nine, nine,  
Penguins in a line  
Ten, ten,  
I want to come again!

## Sally the Camel

Sally the camel has five humps x3  
So ride, Sally, ride.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Sally the camel has four humps. x3.  
So ride, Sally, ride.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Sally the camel has three humps.x3  
So ride, Sally, ride.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Sally the camel has two humps.x3  
So ride, Sally, ride.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Sally the camel has one hump.x3  
So ride, Sally, ride.  
Boom, boom, boom, boom!

Sally the camel has no humps.x3  
'Cause Sally is a horse, of course.

# Animal Poetry

## Curriculum Links – Literacy

### Objectives:

- To use poetry to reinforce sight words.
- To encourage students to practice writing skills by copying/writing poems with a pattern

### Materials:

- Writing Paper
- Copies of Poems

### Plan:

Use the poem below on subsequent lines substitute the words "animals, animals" in the first line with a zoo animal. Get students to write their own poem using this structure

Animals, animals, at the zoo,  
Animals, animals, I like you!

Use the poem below to reinforce sight words *I*, *see*, *in* and *the*. Put a picture in place of the word for the animal. The tune is "Are You Sleeping". Make up new verses.

I see animals.  
I see animals.  
In the zoo,  
In the zoo.  
Elephants and giraffes,  
Lions and seals,  
Monkeys, too.  
Monkeys, too.

### Variations:

- Cut up words and get student to put poem together like a puzzle.
- Practice reading the poem individually.

# Zoo Writing

## Curriculum Links – Literacy

### Objectives:

- To encourage students to attempt writing their own sentence

### Materials:

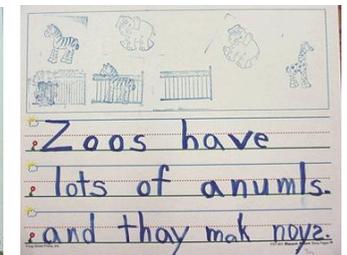
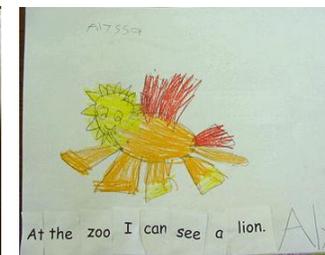
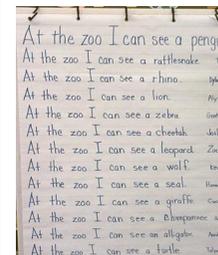
- Markers
- Large sheet of paper
- Writing Paper

### Plan:

Get each student to contribute complete the sentence "At the zoo I can see....." Record this on a large piece of paper.

Type up the sentences. Get students to cut apart the words and put them back in the correct order. Glue onto paper and draw a picture to go with it. Make this into a class book about the zoo.

Get students to use animal stamps or cut out pictures of animals and get students to glue at the top of the page. Get students to write a sentence or two about the zoo. Get them to use phonetic spelling at they write and sound out words. They can also use brainstorm of words to help with spelling.



### Variations:

- Instead of photos you can use small plastic animals.
- Change sentence to 'At the zoo I can hear.....'

# Animal Art (Ideas)

## Curriculum Links – Visual Art

### Standing Animals



Copy animal bodies on card and then add clothes pegs as legs. These could be used to tell a story.

### Paper Plate Masks/Faces



### Card Roll Animals – templates available on request



### Paper Bag Animals – templates available on request



# Animal Maths (Ideas)

## Curriculum Links – Numeracy

### Animal patterns



Use foam animals or stamps to show a pattern

### Ordinal Animals



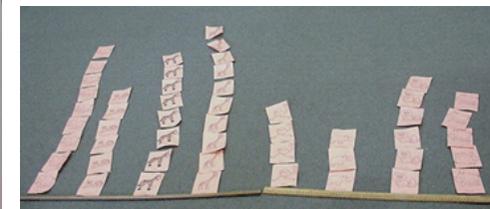
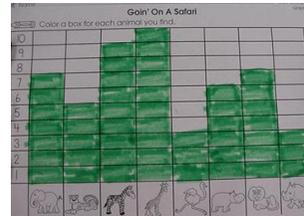
The mat consists of five boxes. Use plastic animals to practice ordinal numbers. "Put the elephant on the first box." "Put a giraffe on the fifth box."

### Add it up



Students put two plastic animals in an egg carton (half dozen carton). Dot labels with the numerals 1-6 written on them were stuck in the bottom of each section. Students close the carton, shake it and opened it. Students write and solve the addition problem.

### Graph it



Use sightings of animals or favourite animals and form graphs using data.