



The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium endeavors to foster a lifelong connection with nature in children and adults by creating a meaningful link between people and wildlife. These activities are designed to be done either at home or at school. Before diving into the materials, here are some tips to help you plan:

These activities are structured around the 5E Lesson Plan model, commonly used in science education:

ENGAGE - Sparking interest in a topic

EXPLORE - Student-led investigation of concepts

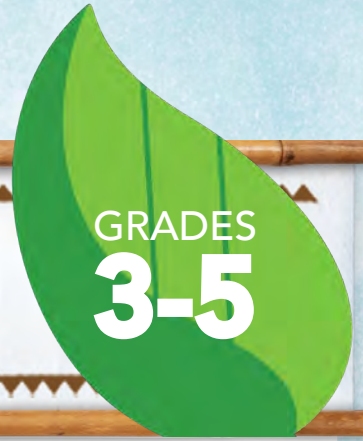
EXPLAIN - Clarification of concepts

EXTEND - Student-led application of concepts

EVALUATE - Opportunity to demonstrate understanding of concepts

This activity packet will guide students as they explore wildlife and wild places. We encourage parents and teachers to utilize all five activities chronologically to provide students a complete learning experience. These activities can be done in a day, or over a longer time span. It is ideal because the educator can tailor the timing around the needs of the learners.

Each section has a brief activity description and a list of materials needed. The instructions are written for the learner; however, we encourage adults to work closely with their students. (Be sure to supervise students when doing any outdoor activities.) Most importantly, we hope you have a fun and engaging experience!



LIFE CYCLES

5 STEPS TO A MEANINGFUL ZOO PROGRAM

ENGAGE

Introduction to life cycles.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

Read *Does a Kangaroo have a Mother, Too?* by Eric Carle.

Think about how life cycles begin by laying eggs or giving birth.

Different baby animals have different names. For example, a baby kangaroo is called a "joey." What are some other baby animal's names? List as many as you can.

With the approval from an adult, go online and research your favorite animal. List what you learned, and draw pictures of the parents and babies. Label what the parents and babies are called.

ESTIMATED TIME

30 minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED

Copy of *Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?* by Eric Carle

Computer

Paper

Crayons/colored pencils

EXPLORE

Explore how different animals begin life.

Watch [Bearded Lizard Hatchlings](#) AND [Baby Moose Plays in Pool.](#)

With a friend brainstorm how those animals started their lives. Do they look the same as their parents as they grow?

30 minutes

EXPLAIN

Plants as well as animals have life cycles too.

Read *Because of an Acorn* by Lola and Adam Schaefer.

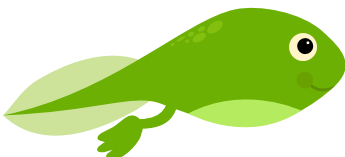
Plants also have a life cycle. With a partner, create a life cycle for a plant. Start with a seed and then label the life stages as it grows.

30 minutes

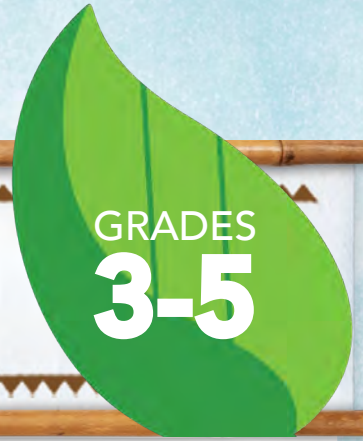
Copy of *Because of an Acorn* by Lola and Adam Schaefer

Paper

Crayons/colored pencils



CONTINUED



LIFE CYCLES

5 STEPS TO A MEANINGFUL ZOO PROGRAM

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY

ESTIMATED TIME

MATERIALS NEEDED

EXTEND

Extend the previous lessons to determine that all living things are essential for habitats to survive.

Watch [Kazi and the Boys Hang Out with Dad video](#).

Check out this pride of lions! This group has a male, female and their babies. Can you tell which animal is which? How do you know?

Lions aren't the only animals who have distinguishing characteristics. There are lots of animals here in Ohio who have variations between males and females, as well as their offspring.

Go online with a partner and research an animal native to Ohio and write down your findings.

30 minutes

Paper
Pencils or pens

EVALUATE

Apply the concepts covered.

As a class or group, chart your findings from the previous lesson.

30 minutes

Chart paper
Markers, pencils or pens



PICTURE BOOKS



***WHILE GRADE LEVELS ARE LISTED, ALL BOOKS ARE APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AGES.**

PICTURE BOOK	AUTHOR	GRADES
<i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i>	Eric Carle	K-2
<i>Does a Kangaroo Have a Mother, Too?</i>	Eric Carle	3-5
<i>Ribbit</i>	Jorey Hurley	K-2
<i>City Dog, Country Frog</i>	Mo Willems	3-5
<i>From Caterpillar to Butterfly</i>	Deborah Heiligman	K-2
<i>The Carrot Seed</i>	Ruth Krauss	3-5
<i>First the Egg</i>	Laura Vaccaro Seeger	K-5
<i>Ten Little Caterpillars</i>	Bill Martin, Jr.	3-5
<i>Fish is Fish</i>	Leo Lionni	K-2
<i>Don't Worry Bear</i>	Greg E. Foley	3-5
<i>Because of an Acorn</i>	Lola and Adam Schaefer	K-2
<i>Mommy Hugs</i>	Anne Gutman and George Hallensleben	K-2