

MONARTO
ZOO



VISITOR CENTRE JUNIOR PRIMARY



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Acknowledgements

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This Education program for schools is a partnership between the Monarto Zoo and the Department for Education and Child Development, South Australia.

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For the Teacher

General Information

Welcome to Monarto Zoo!

Monarto Zoo is a fantastic educational resource. It is a 1450 hectare open range zoo located on former farming land. Large tracts of remnant mallee scrub exist in the areas between animal enclosures, and this natural scrub is being extended annually through an on-going revegetation program which involves many community and school groups. A huge variety of native fauna roams freely in the scrub areas.

Monarto Zoo is involved in many animal conservation programs and these include both native and exotic species, with a heavy focus on threatened species from desert and arid habitats.

Experiencing Monarto Zoo and learning about animals, ecosystems and conservation can be undertaken via

- Observing and handling the huge range of prepared skins, bones and other animal biofacts at the Visitor Centre.
- A safari bus tour of animal enclosures with a commentary provided by a trained host (for groups of 22 or more students in your own bus),
- Walking through the mallee scrub on signposted tracks,
- Taking as much time as you want to observe animals from viewing platforms around the Visitor Centre and at “Bus Stops”.

Activities and tasks in this resource relate only to the Visitors’ Centre and immediate surrounds. It includes activities inside the Centre and at the Meerkat enclosure located at the base of the ramp outside the centre.

In planning this excursion, please consider your schedule and how you would like to arrange the class’ activities on the day. Discuss this with the Education Officer at the time of booking your visit.

Estimated time to complete the Visitor Centre Activities: 15-20 minutes

Key:



Observe carefully



Discuss and share ideas with your group



Write down your thoughts



Did you know?

MONARTO ZOO



A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

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J10	Addax		M11	Giraffe	
R4	African Lion		K13	Indian Antelope	
R2	African Painted Dog		E11	Meerkat	
K11	Barbary Sheep		J14	Mesopotamian Fallow Deer	
D17	Bison		G11	Ostrich	
H14	Black Rhinoceros		E13	Przewalski's Horse	
K13	Bongo		H11	Scimitar-horned Oryx	
L5	Cheetah		Q3	Spotted Hyaena	
G12	Chimpanzee		M6	White Rhinoceros	
J13	Chital Deer		F12	Yellow-footed Rock-wallaby	
N9	Eland		I14	Zebra	

Bretag Scrub
Future release site for native animals


Legend

	Lookout
	Bus Stop
	Car Park
	Toilets
	First Aid
	Cafe
	Zu-loop route
	Walking Tracks
	Creek


Monarto Zoo is smoke free.

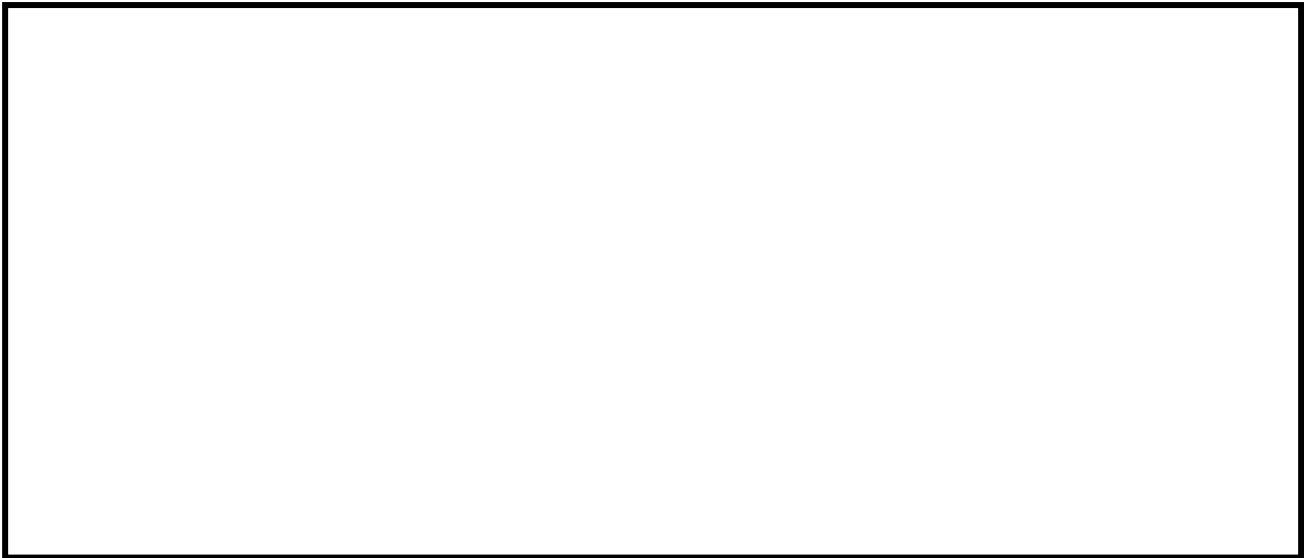

Visitor Centre Activities – Junior Primary

Inside the Visitor Centre

-  Carefully look at the different bio-facts inside the Visitor Centre.

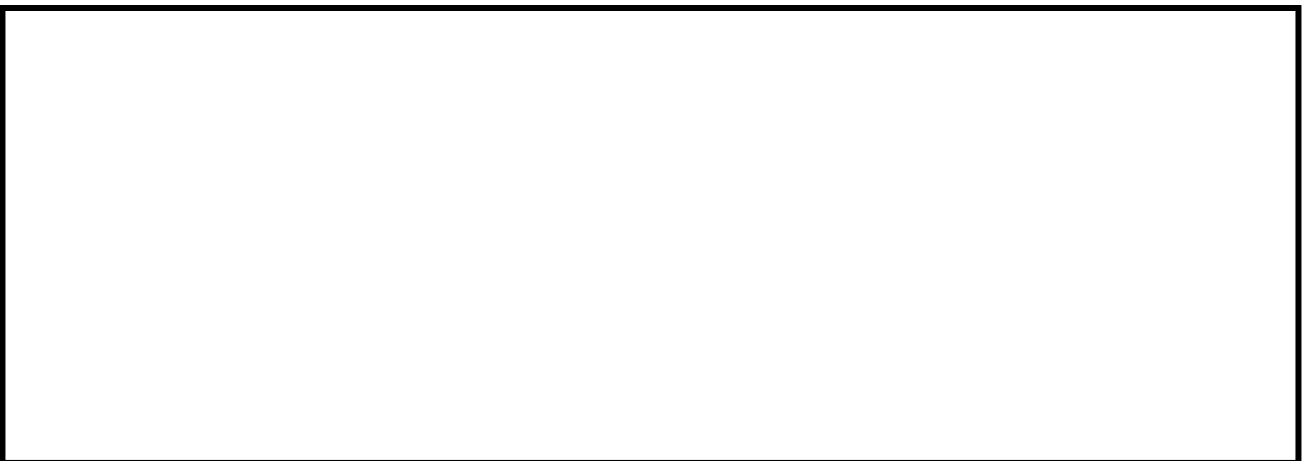

Animals that eat meat are called **carnivores**. They need heavy skulls, strong jaws and powerful muscles to help them to catch and eat their prey. They also have large, sharp teeth on the sides called canine teeth. They need these to grab and kill their prey.

-  Search the room for a skull of an animal that is a **carnivore**. Draw and label it here.



Animals that eat plants are called **herbivores**. Some herbivores have teeth on the top jaw in the very front that cut food, others don't have any front teeth, cutting the plants with their lips instead. However, all herbivores need big wide teeth at the back of the mouth for grinding their food. These teeth are strong and bumpy for better grinding.

-  Find a skull of a **herbivore** and draw and label it here.



See if you can see any living animals living in the Visitors Centre.

What animal can you see? _____

What is it doing? _____

What does it usually eat? (look for food or signs about the animal) _____

Does it camouflage well with its surroundings? _____

What sort of habitat do you think these animals normally live in? (eg. Desert, rainforest, wetlands.)

Can you write some words that help to describe this animal?



Meerkats



In the wild Meerkats like to live in big family groups or colonies.

Why is this a good idea? (Hint: think about other hungry animals that live in Africa)



Circle the word that best describes a Meerkat.



Carnivore

Herbivore



In the wild, Meerkats spend all day searching and hunting for food. Meerkats that live in zoos don't have to do this. To keep the animals busy and healthy they are given different toys and feeding devices to play with. These help to make the animals exercise and use their brains. We call these behaviour enrichment items. Draw and label any behaviour enrichment items you can see in the Meerkat enclosure.



Look out for more behaviour enrichment items around the Zoo today.



Perhaps you could design a behaviour enrichment item for a Meerkat when you get back to school.