

MONARTO
ZOO



VISITOR CENTRE SECONDARY



Government of South Australia
Department for Education and
Child Development

Acknowledgements

This resource was developed by:
Ruth Hall, DECD, seconded to Zoos SA Education

With support from the following people and organisations:
Ian Walton, DECD, seconded to Zoos SA Education
John Gardner, Alice Howard, Emma Still, Jessica Langley & Carolyn
Hoare: Staff at Zoos SA Education

Front cover designed by:
Emma Still, Education Officer, Zoos SA

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Updated Nov 2011

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

Monarto Education contact details

Phone: 85344100

Fax: 8534 4077

Email: iwalton@zoossa.com.au

estill@zoossa.com.au

Website: www.zoossa.com.au

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 Visitor’s Centre. 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

1
2
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10
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14
15
16
17
18

To Gate House
2.5 km

Alfred James
Memorial

Visitor's Centre

Mallee Fowl Track

Mallee Fowl

Creek Track

The Bomas

Boma Track

Bretag Track

Windana

Bretag Scrub
Future release site
for native animals

Chimpanzee

Ridge Track

The Waterhole

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	

Legend

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



Monarto Zoo is smoke free.

VISITOR CENTRE ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY

Inside the Visitors' Centre spend some time viewing the skins, skulls and other biofacts on the Touch Tables



Most of the skins and bones in the Visitors' Centre have been prepared for viewing by a group of Zoos SA volunteers. The items, or biofacts, come from animals that have died at Monarto or Adelaide Zoos. In most cases, animals that die in the Zoos are autopsied by veterinarians to find the cause of death and other information about the state of the animals. This information can be important in caring for the living animals better in captivity.

Carefully observe one of the skulls, identifying significant and interesting features.

Comment on 3 of its features below.

Animal species chosen _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The skins of a variety of native and exotic (from overseas) animals are displayed in the Visitor's Centre.

Identify an animal skin which meets the following descriptions (there may be more than one possible answer in some cases.)

Feature	Animal species
This fur colouring or pattern would blend in well with its habitat, creating good camouflage.	
This fur colouring or patterns would disrupt the view of its body outline, making it difficult to see when still.	
This animal skin is very thick and tough.	
This animal's skin has very soft fur	
This fur would reflect most sunlight, and would not cause the animal to overheat.	
This fur would provide very good insulation against extreme cold.	
This skin has hooves which are like highly developed toenails	
The feet on this skin has "tread" on its sole to stop the animal from slipping when it was alive and moving fast.	
The feet on this skin has strong, sharp claws.	





Observe the **horns** on some of the skulls. Notice that they have an internal bone layer and an external **keratin** layer. (Keratin is the same protein as in your hair and fingernails.) Horns remain on an animal's head for its whole life. If broken they cannot be regrown.

Now observe some of the deer **antlers** on the touch table. Antlers are covered in soft fur (called velvet) as they grow. This dries up when the antler is finished growing, leaving tough bone behind. Antlers are shed by deer every 12 – 18 months, and a new set grows.

Why do antelopes and deer have these heavy structures on their heads?



What are the advantages and disadvantages of shedding and replacing antlers regularly, rather than having horns?

Advantages _____



Disadvantages _____

MEERKATS



Observe the Meerkats in their enclosure near the bottom of the ramp at the Visitors' Centre. In the wild, Meerkats live in large family groups. There are benefits and problems for animals that have this sort of social behaviour.



Discuss these and write down the main advantages and disadvantages for communal living.

Advantages _____



Disadvantages _____



Living in arid areas, Meerkats rarely drink water. How could their bodies obtain the water they need?



Observe the behaviour of the Meerkats for a while. Write down 3 aspects of their behaviour which would help them to survive in the wild.



1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Describe how Meerkats communicate with one another.


