

Introducing **Zoo Focus Days**

Educational sessions for secondary school students at Adelaide Zoo

Choose from the following topics:

- **Careers at Zoos SA** – What sort of workers are needed to run a zoo? Consider zoo keepers and veterinary - roles and training. Also look at the huge range of other people needed to manage the Business, Communications, Education, Visitor Services, Human Resources, Conservation Science, Horticulture, Marketing, Building and Maintenance and Volunteer aspects of Zoos SA. What are the different training and skills required for these roles? What do these people have in common?
- **Tourism at Zoos SA** – Look at the stated role of Zoos SA and consider how tourism fits in with it. Financial, social, environmental and seasonal aspects of running Zoos SA. Marketing strategies including the role of mass media. Advantages and disadvantages of being a not-for-profit charity rather than a government organisation.
- **Threatened Species & Conservation Science** – What are Threatened Species? Why are there so many? Why care? Look at the threats that are facing many wild species and the way that actions of individuals, governments and NGOs can prevent species from becoming extinct. Look at the role of Conservation Science in helping some key native and exotic species.
- **Adaptations & Evolution** – Why are species so well adapted to their environment and lifestyle? Look at a range of structural, behavioural and physiological adaptations of animals from Adelaide Zoo. Consider the struggle for survival for animals in wild populations. Which ones make it to parenthood? What if the environment changes? How can evolution lead to new species?
- **Animal Classification** – Why do we classify animals? In fact, why do we sort anything? What is an “animal”? Look at the use of structures as the basis for classification. Consider the vertebrate/invertebrate distinction. Brainstorm invertebrate phyla which represent over 98% of all known animal species. Look at the general process of further subdividing Chordata down to species level. Why isn't it always a black and white procedure?
- **Rainforests** – What and where are rainforests? (tropical and temperate.) A focus on tropical rainforests - Biodiversity hotspots! Why are these ecosystems so rich in biodiversity and yet so poorly researched? Reasons for threats to tropical rainforests of the Earth? What can individuals do to help?
- **The Role of Zoos** – What are Zoos SA's goals and how and why have they changed during the last century? Hear about some of the Conservation Research and Programs run through Zoos SA. Consider the unique opportunities Zoos have of educating and connecting people to nature. How is tourism supported by Zoos and how are Zoos supported by Tourism?
- **Animal Needs and Zoos** – Why do zoos exist? How can zoos give wild animals a good quality life in captivity? What do different animals need to be healthy and able to behave as they would in the wild? How does the Zoo provide these things and how can it measure its effectiveness. Are there any species that should not be in zoos? Use examples that students will see at the Zoo.
- **Ecosystems and Biodiversity** – Look at a sample ecosystem – Mallee Scrubland – and consider the organisms>populations>community and abiotic environment that makes up the Mallee ecosystem. Discuss some vital relationships between different parts of the ecosystem. Look at the flow of energy and cycling of materials that are part of the system. How have clearing, fragmentation and introduced species affected this ecosystem? Biodiversity of this ecosystem. Overlaps and transitions between neighbouring ecosystems and the idea of mobile ecosystems over time.

Other topics can be negotiated to suit the needs of your students.

Cost \$30.00 per class + student entry price

Contact Adelaide Zoo Education for more information and bookings:

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