

CARING ABOUT WATER

TEACHER GUIDE FOR EXPEDITION



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- This 45 minute to 1 hour program leads students on an exploration of Rocky Coasts in Seneca Park Zoo.
- Students engage in activities and discussions with a Zoo educator to explore the topics of conservation, pollution, and how animals' bodies help them live in watery habitats.



LEARNING STANDARDS

NextGen & New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards:

- **Kindergarten:** Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment
- **2nd Grade:** Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- **K-2nd Grade:** Engineering Design



HOW TO PREPARE YOUR STUDENTS

Logistics

- Have your students split into groups of 15 or fewer.
- Assign 2-3 chaperones/teachers per group.
- Make sure that students are dressed for the weather.
- Provide name tags for students to wear.

Content

- It is helpful to pre-teach the definitions of conserve, pollution, and recycle.



WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE

- Your buses will pull up to the drop off area at the Front Gate.
- A Zoo staff person will check in your bus.
- You will check in at the Front Gate. Make sure that you know the total number of guests (students and teachers/chaperones) in your group. Have payment ready unless you have already submitted a purchase order.
- While you are checking in with Admissions a Zoo staff member will greet your group and give a brief presentation on Zoo etiquette and safety. Your group will enter the Zoo and wait at a designated flag area.
- The Zoo educator will take your first group and begin your Expedition. Subsequent Expedition groups will meet the Zoo educator at the tent next to tigers at the times listed on the schedule provided to begin their Expedition.



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

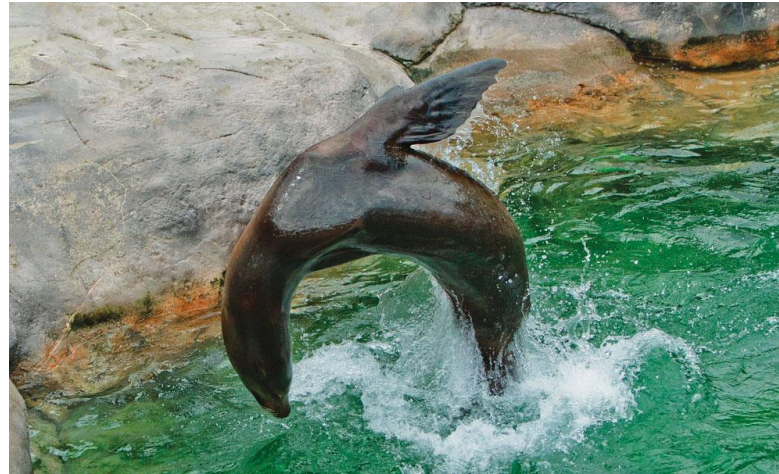
- What can we observe about animals' bodies that help them live in watery habitats?
- How does pollution affect animals?
- How can we conserve watery habitats?



WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION



African penguins



California sea lions

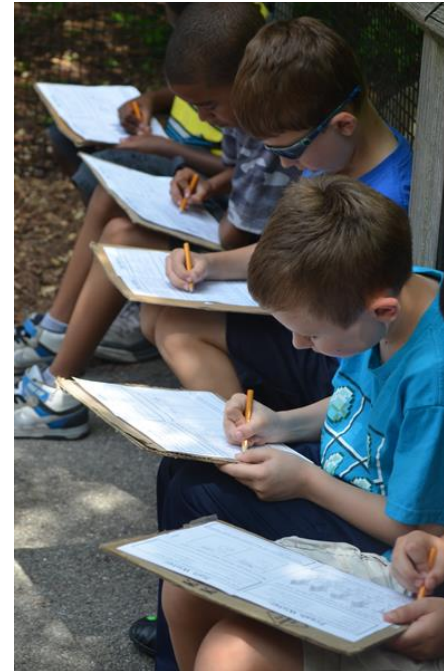


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WHAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL DO

- Make observations
- Record observations in Field Guides provided by Zoo educator
- Engage in activities and discussions led by Zoo educator



POST VISIT SUGGESTIONS

We Care About Water Activity:

- Create a poster or display to share with your school or community about ways students can do their part to take care of the Earth's water and reduce pollution.
- Students can use the ideas generated in their Field Guides from their Expedition to start their research.
- Note: This could be a collaborative project with your school's art teacher.



RESOURCES

- Seneca Park Zoo <http://senecaparkzoo.org/>
- World Wildlife Fund: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/habitats/>
- H2O Hero: <http://www.h2ohero.org/>
- National Geographic: <http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/freshwater/>
- 50 Simple Things: <http://www.50simplekids.com/>

