PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- This 45 minute to 1 hour program leads students on an exploration of *A Step Into Africa* in Seneca Park Zoo.
- Students engage in activities and discussions with a Zoo educator to explore the topic of biodiversity and the unique roles of the animals in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area.
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

- Students should be familiar with the idea that animals have different jobs that affect their ecosystem.
- It is helpful to pre-teach the definitions of biodiversity and conservation.
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, 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 entrance to **A Step Into Africa** at the times listed on the schedule provided to begin their Expedition.
ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What is biodiversity?
- What are the roles of the animals in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area?
- How do the roles of the animals impact each other and maintain balance in the ecosystem?
WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION

African lions  olive baboons  African elephants  domestic goats
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

Biodiversity Comparison Activity:

- Students research the biodiversity of their hometown.
- Students compare the roles of animals they observed at the Zoo with the roles of local animals.
- Students create a presentation (poster, brochure, skit, etc.) that compares the biodiversity of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and their hometown.
RESOURCES

- Seneca Park Zoo: http://senecaparkzoo.org/
- The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority: http://ngorongorocrater.org
- Maasai Association: http://maasai-association.org
- ICUN Red List of Threatened Species: http://www.iucnredlist.org
- Defenders of Wildlife: http://www.defenders.org
- National Geographic: http://animals.nationalgeographic.com