This 45 minute to 1 hour program leads students on an exploration of *A Step Into Africa* in Seneca Park Zoo.

Students simulate a safari while discovering why conservation areas are important and how lions’ adaptations help them survive.
NextGen & New York State P-12 Science Learning Standards:

- **Kindergarten**: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems: Animals, Plants, and Their Environment
- **1st Grade**: Structure, Function, and Information Processing
- **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 brainstorm items that they would bring on safari.
- It is helpful to pre-teach the concepts of conservation and adaptation.
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, teachers, and 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 conservation?
- Why are conservation areas important?
- What items do we need to bring on safari?
- How do lions’ adaptations help them survive?
WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION

African lions

mural

safari bus
WHAT YOUR STUDENTS WILL DO

- Make observations
- Record observations on Lion Observation sheet provided by Zoo educator
- Engage in activities and discussions led by Zoo educator
POST VISIT SUGGESTIONS

Safari Poster Activity:

- Have students create posters advertising safaris at Seneca Park Zoo.
- Students should mention what people need to bring on safari, why they should go on safari, and how safaris benefit both people and animals.
- Be sure to include photos and drawings from your Lion Safari Expedition!
RESOURCES

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