

WATERY HABITATS OF NORTH AMERICA

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 three different habitats in North America. Students identify how each habitat meets the needs of the animals that live there and how humans can conserve these habitats.



LEARNING STANDARDS

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

- **3rd Grade:** Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Weather and Climate
- **5th Grade:** Matter and Energy in Organisms and Ecosystems; Earth's Systems



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 topic of habitat.
- Students should be able to identify the five things that habitats provide for animals (food, water, shelter, space, & air).



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 is a habitat?
- How do habitats provide animals with what they need to survive?
- How are the habitats of wetlands, coastal areas, and Arctic similar? How are they different?
- How can humans conserve watery habitats of North America?



WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION



sandhill crane



California sea lions

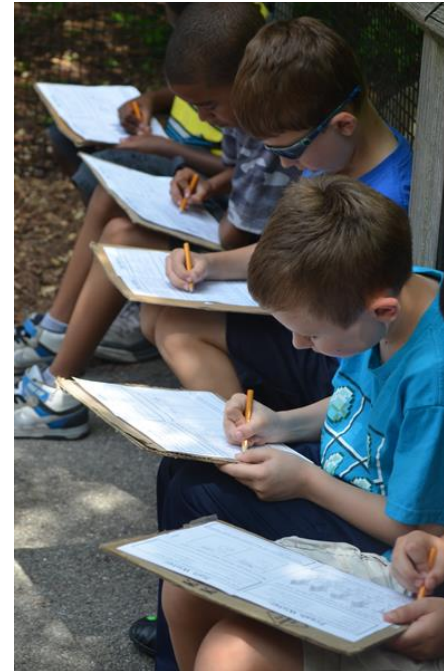


polar bear



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

Conservation Advertisement Activity:

- Students make a brochure or other advertisement to encourage people to visit a wetland, reduce pollution, or conserve energy.
- Students use the conservation pledges they made during the Expedition to guide their advertisement campaign.



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/>

