

# ELEPHANTS & BIODIVERSITY

TEACHER GUIDE FOR EXPEDITION



# 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
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:** Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems
- **K-2<sup>nd</sup> 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?

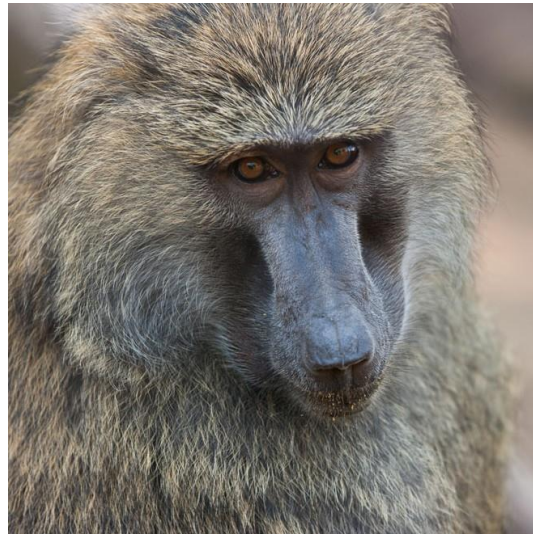




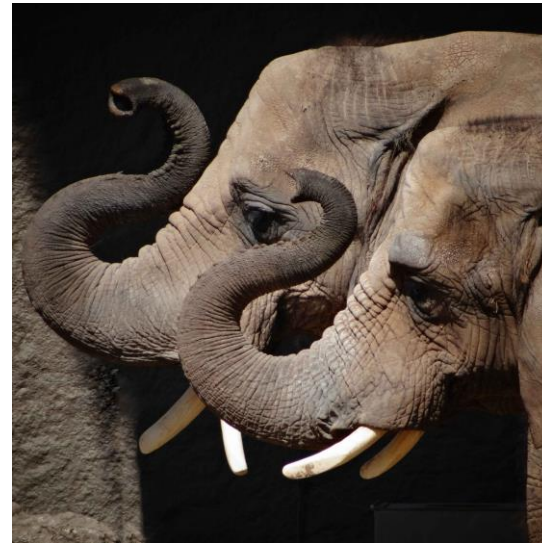
# WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION



African lions



olive baboons



African elephants

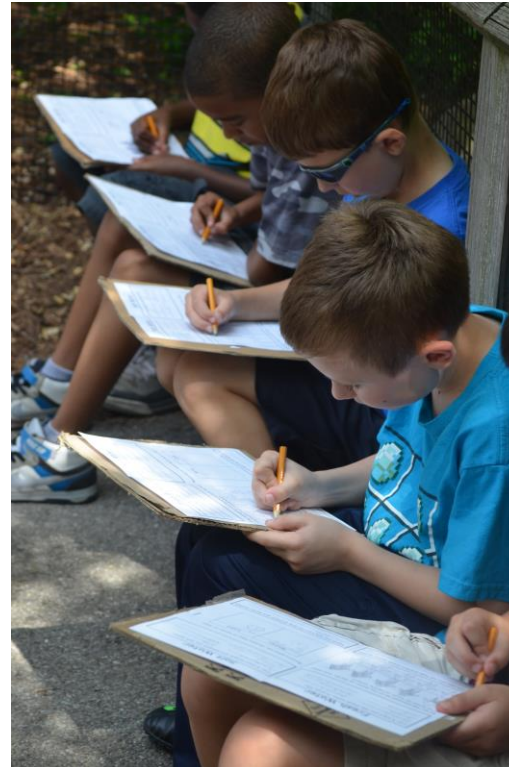


domestic goats



# 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>
- World Wildlife Fund: <http://wwf.panda.org>

