

LIVING WITH WOLVES & OTHER PREDATORS

TEACHER GUIDE FOR EXPEDITION



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- This 45 minute to 1 hour program leads students on an exploration of Creatures of the River's Edge and the Cold Asia sections of Seneca Park Zoo.
- Students engage in activities and discussions with a Zoo educator to explore the topics of predators & human conflict.



LEARNING STANDARDS

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

- 3rd Grade: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems; Weather and Climate
- 4th Grade: Structure, Function, and Information Processing
- 5th Grade: 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 definitions of predator and prey.



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 donor brick benches near Creatures from the River's Edge at the times listed on the schedule provided to begin their Expedition.



ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- What are predators? What are prey?
- How is an ecosystem affected if a predator is removed or added?
- How can humans learn to co-exist with predators in their neighborhood?



WHAT YOU WILL SEE DURING YOUR EXPEDITION



Burmese pythons



snow leopards



gray wolves



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

Temperate Forest Food Chains:

- Read the book *What If There Were No Gray Wolves?* by Suzanne Buckingham Slade
- Use the information in the book to create a food chain paper chain. For detailed instructions on this craft, visit <https://senecaparkzoo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Food-chain-paper-chain-project.pdf>



RESOURCES

- Seneca Park Zoo <http://senecaparkzoo.org/>
- National Geographic: <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com>
- World Wildlife Fund: <http://wwf.panda.org>
- Wolf Conservation Center: <https://nywolf.org/>
- What If There Were No Gray Wolves? book: <https://www.amazon.com/What-There-Were-Gray-Wolves/dp/1404863958>

