

A Trip to the Zoo

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Classroom Activities	4
Stand-Up Animals and Zoo Train	7
Animal Antonyms	19
Zoo Animal Riddles	21
A Trip to the Zoo: The Child's Book	23
<u>Poems</u>	
The Seal	24
The Lion	25
The Elephant	26
Speedy the Zebra	27
The Giraffe	28
The Hippopotamus	29
The Koala	30
The Kangaroo	31
The Camel	32
The Penguin	33
<u>Stories</u>	
Lions	34
Tigers	36
Elephants	38
Zebras	40
Giraffes	42
Hippopotamuses	44
American Black Bears and Brown Bears	46
Polar Bears	49
Giant Pandas	51
Koalas	53
Kangaroos	55
Monkeys and Apes	57
Camels	60
Penguins	63

A Trip to the Zoo

Introduction

Animals fascinate us! Children have a natural curiosity about animals. This unit is designed to help teachers capitalize on this curiosity by teaching a unit on zoo animals.

As humans strive to keep their environment free from pollution, it is equally important that consideration be given to other animals. Like humans, other animals need living space, clean air, and good food, free from harmful chemicals.

Students must be aware that they have a responsibility for these creatures of the wild. In the future, it will be necessary to provide space for them to live. Zoos and wild animal parks have helped a number of species that were in danger of extinction.

By studying animals, students may learn more about what it means to be human. They will begin to see how we are like other animals and how we differ from them.

A zoo unit may be approached in many ways. The class could study specific groups of animals, such as the bear or cat families, or they could study endangered species and ways to save these animals. Alternatively, the class could study a mammal, a bird, an amphibian, a reptile, and a fish. During such a study, the class could practice classifying animals. Children can classify animals in groups according to the animals' countries of origin, a comparison of physical characteristics, or by what the animals eat. To aid the study, many short, factual stories about various animals are included in this book (pages 34–64). They can be copied and compiled into a child's zoo book.

A study of animal life can be greatly enhanced by a visit to the zoo. Some zoos encourage a class or group to adopt one of their inhabitants as a special project. Funds might be raised for this purpose. Such an action would stimulate the students' interest in the zoo. Many zoos have programs to bring animals to schools in a zoo-mobile. Children are sometimes allowed to handle the animals. A knowledgeable person accompanies the animals and answers the children's questions. Whether or not your school is near a zoo, movies or filmstrips can be very helpful in studying animals. Libraries normally have a wide variety of books about animals and the zoo.

A visit to the zoo is an ideal occasion to develop map skills. Usually a map of the zoo is available that indicates the locations of various animals. Children could be asked to choose their routes through the zoo or to select an animal and then follow the map to its area. In the classroom, a large map of the world could be hung on a bulletin board. The children can color or paint their favorite animals and place them on the map near the animals' natural origins.

To add variety to the study of animals, we have included directions for several art projects (page 4). Additionally, if your school has a kiln, students could create likenesses of the animals that impress them the most. Terra cotta clay fires to a color that is natural to the appearance of many animals.

It is our hope that your students will derive much enjoyment from the many learning experiences that can be incorporated into a study of the zoo.

Classroom Activities

Stand-Up Animals and Zoo Train (pages 7–18)

The children will enjoy making the three-dimensional animals and the zoo train described below. The animals can be used in a variety of ways in the classroom. For example, an attractive display of the stand-up animals can be arranged on a table, a window ledge, or a counter.

Another unique display can be made by hanging the animals on a mobile. After assembling each animal, tie fishing line or colorful yarn around the center of the animals and balance them from an arrangement of straws. The bear and the lion, and the camel and the elephant should balance one another. The mother and baby kangaroo can be hung either above or below the other animals. The mobile can be hung from the ceiling or in a window.

A very attractive zoo bulletin board can be created using the stand-up animals and the zoo train patterns. A set of railroad tracks can be made using thick yarn roving as the two tracks, and straws (*cut in half*) or ice-cream-bar sticks as the ties that go across. The train and tracks can stretch across the lower part of the bulletin board. The animals can be displayed with enclosures in the center of the board. An appropriate title, perhaps “Zoo-Train Express,” can be used on the top of the board.

The train can be used as a motivational tool, as well. Different groups or individuals may have their train or train car moved a specified distance along a track as a reward for appropriate behavior or academic achievement. If used as a three-dimensional train, you can deposit ice-cream-bar sticks, marbles, or other small tokens into the appropriate train boxcars. When the desired number of counters has been accumulated, the winning group or individual could receive a reward.

Art Supplies:

Animal patterns duplicated on sturdy paper or tagboard
One cardboard toilet paper tube for each animal to be made
Scissors
Glue or tape
Crayons or felt-tip pens

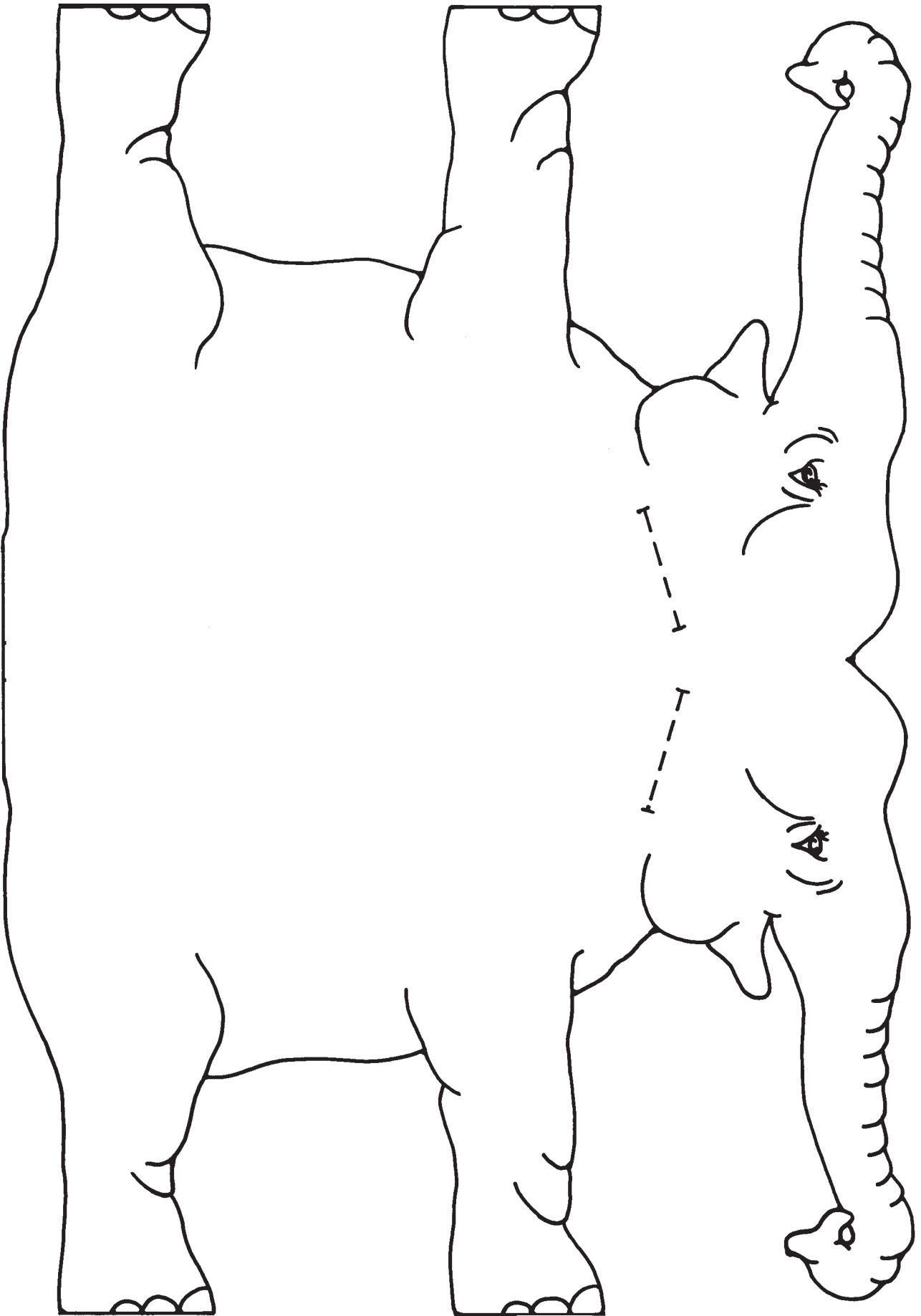
1. Prepare the Cardboard Tubes (page 8).

Duplicate and cut out patterns that are to be used to cover the cardboard tube and both ends of the tube. Either colored construction paper or white paper can be used. Except for the kangaroos, each animal will need a completely covered tube.

Prepare the ends of the tubes first. Cut around the outer circle of the pattern, then cut inward along the lines. Do not cut on the inner circle line. Fold the tabs inward toward the center of the circle. Using the tabs as anchors, tape or glue one circle onto each end of a cardboard tube. Glue the rectangle pattern around the tube, covering the tabs.

2. Make a Polar Bear (page 9).

Duplicate and cut out the pattern for the bear. White tagboard can be used for a polar bear. Students may prefer to color their bears. Wrap the body around the prepared tube, allowing for



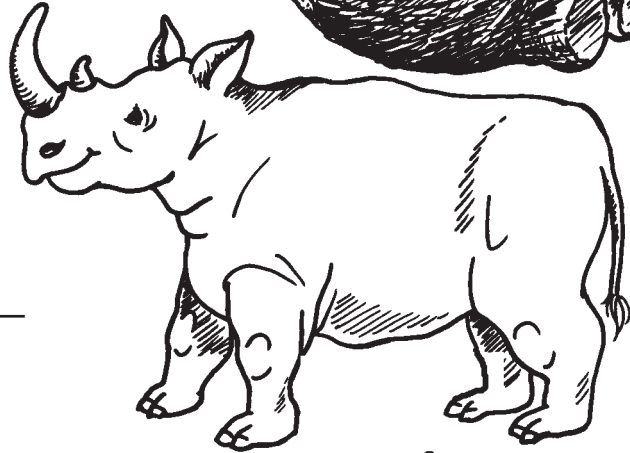
Zoo Animal Riddles

Print the name of each animal on the line provided.

1. When I go out playing,
Upon the ice and snow,
Below the Antarctic Circle
Is where I always go.
I am a _____



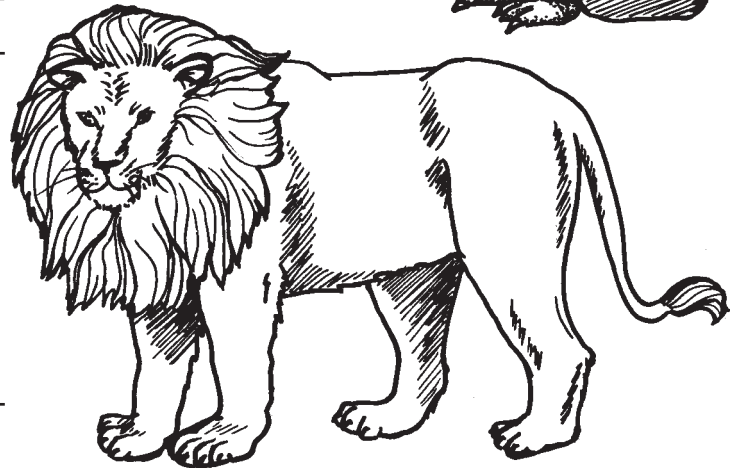
2. My orange bushy mane
Is hard to disguise,
To capture my food
I depend on surprise.
I am a _____



3. Although I have four legs
I normally use just two,
Hidden in my special pouch
There's a baby _____



4. The forest lands of China
Are where I like to roam
But fresh and tender bamboo shoots
Can make me feel at home.
I am a _____



5. I have a sharp horn
In the center of my snout,
Dressed in a coat of armor
I like to charge about.
I am a _____

The Seal

*The slippery black seal,
So smooth and so sleek,
Glides through the water—
A most graceful streak!*

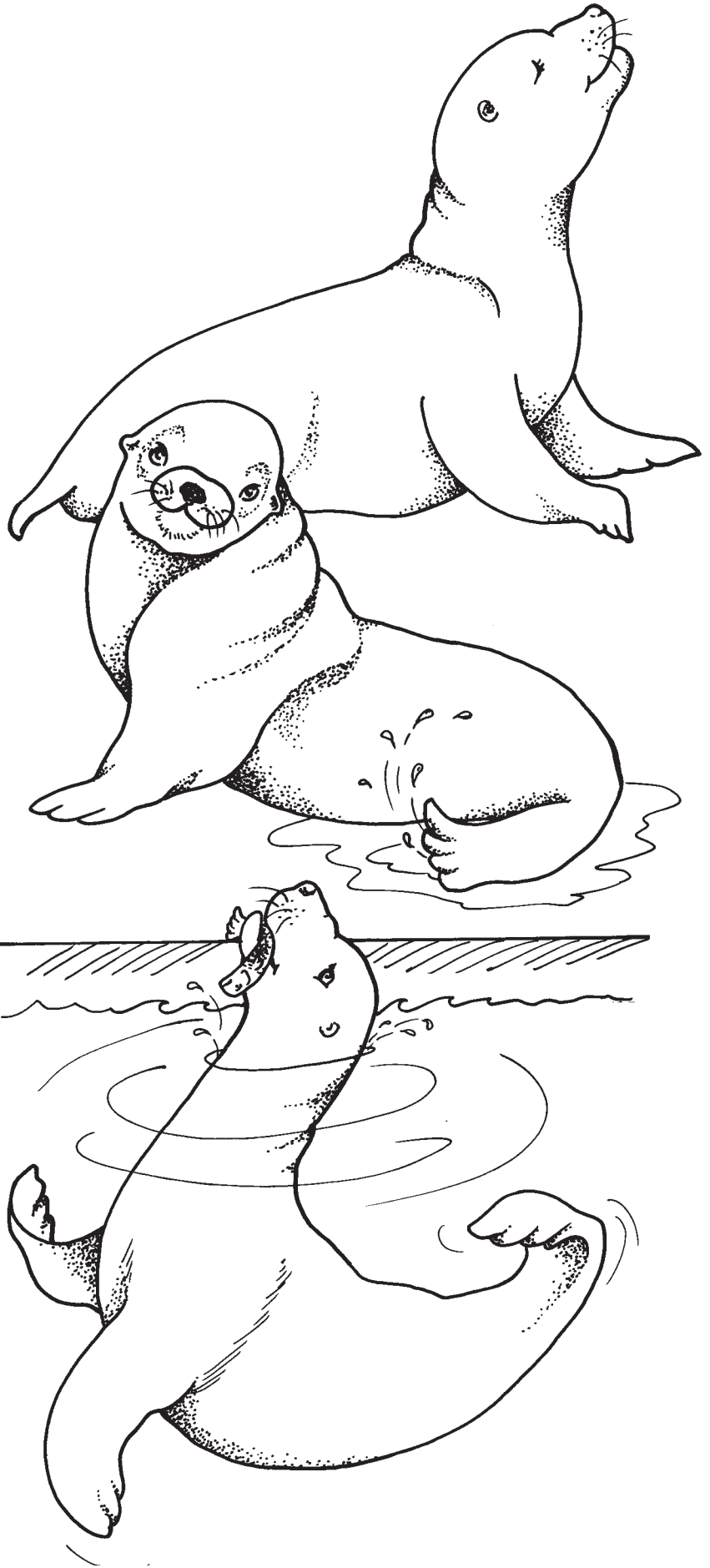
*He gets your attention
With his frolicsome ways,
Then churns up the water
While he scrambles and plays.*

*When the caretaker brings
A pail full of fish,
Mr. Seal folds his flippers
As if making a wish.*

*“Please toss them all
Over my way,”
His loud barking voice
Just seems to say.*

*“My stomach is empty
I’ll need quite a few
If I’m to continue
This great show for you!”*

Dale and Shirley Hewlett



Lions

The lion is known as the “King of Beasts.” Although humans have long admired this strong, regal animal, we have also feared the lion’s ferocity. Yet lions can be trained and are one of our most exciting circus animals.

Lions live in the woodlands of India and on the grassy plains of Africa. These places are ideal hunting grounds for lions. Lions’ golden fur helps them blend into the tall, dry grasses. Hidden, they can stalk grass-eating, hooved animals such as the horse, antelope, zebra, and deer. They will also eat other animals, including fish, fowl, and carrion. In the wild, as well as in captivity, lions eat only meat.

In recent years, the lion has become an endangered species. Humans are the lions’ greatest enemy. We kill lions to protect ourselves and our livestock. Fortunately, lions can live and reproduce in captivity. Zoos, animal reserves, and parks are helping in the struggle to save lions.

Lions normally live in groups called prides. A pride often consists of two or three males, many females, and young cubs. Males can be identified easily by their manes. The mane is the long shaggy hair that grows on the chest, neck, and head of a lion. As a male gets older, his mane gets darker. Older lions are sometimes called “black males.” Males mark the territory of the pride by walking around its borders and urinating or spraying a scent on the grass or ground. This warns other males and hunting animals to stay away.

Females, called lionesses, do most of the hunting for the pride. The lioness often hides in tall grass and creeps quietly upon her prey. She leaps with amazing speed and accuracy and can bring an animal down with a single blow. With one bite of her strong jaws, she can kill almost any animal she attacks. Then she drags the food back to the pride, where everyone shares in the prize.

Lions only have sharp teeth which are well-suited for their diet of meat. With the help of powerful jaws, their teeth can cut through animal’s skin and break bones. Since they have no molars for chewing, lions often swallow large chunks of meat. It is common for an adult to eat 75 pounds (34 kg) of food at one time!

When a lioness is 3 or 4 years old, she mates with a male lion in the pride. Three and a half months later, she finds a protected thicket, and makes a nest, or den. There she gives birth to three or four cubs. She has no permanent den, and she may carry the cubs to different hiding places to protect them. She moves her cubs carefully, one at a time, by carrying them in her mouth by the loose skin on the back of their necks.

The young cubs are very playful—jumping and pouncing, wrestling and tumbling. From the time they are born, cubs imitate adult lions. This is how they learn to hunt. At first, the cubs drink only their mother’s or another female’s milk. After two months, however, their mother leads them to an animal she has killed so they can have their first taste of meat. The cubs learn to like meat just as their parents do. Soon they are hunting on their own.

After two years, the cubs lose their youthful spotted fur. Then the males’ manes begin to grow. The young females will stay with the pride, but the young males are driven out of the pride by other males. These young males wander for a while, but soon challenge other males. If the young lion wins a fight, he is allowed to join the new pride.

