

Choose a Topic for Zoo to You



Can't make it to the Zoo? We can bring some of the Zoo to You when you book one of the following Educational Outreach Programs!

Preschool Programs

Zoo for 2's

Animal encounters for children aged 2 or for mixed groups ages 2 and 3. Children will be able to touch some animals (with close supervision) and, for animals that can't be touched, toy replicas or 'biofacts' such as fur or feathers will be presented.

Colorful Animal Kingdom (ages 3-5)

Virginia Mathematics Foundation Block 6

The animal kingdom is a colorful place! Explore how animals use colors through stories and activities. Students will have the chance to meet some animals and investigate colors up close!

Animals on the Move (ages 3-5)

Virginia Health and Physical Development Foundation Block 1

Slither, crawl, hop, run, and wiggle your way through a story, song and activity. Join us as we learn how animals get from one place to another. Students will be able to observe how different animals move and try out those movements themselves!

One, Two, Who's at the Zoo? (ages 3-5)

Virginia Mathematics Foundation Block 1

Three, four, let's learn some more! Can you count how many ears a rabbit has? How many zebras live in a herd? Practice your number and counting skills using a story, song, and meeting some animal ambassadors!

Kindergarten

World Traveler

VA Science SOLs K.7(a), 1.5(a) (Also Social Science/Geography K.3, K.4, 1.4); NGSS K-ESS3-1

Your students will meet several animals from different continents and diverse habitats, and gain new understanding of how each one is adapted to its natural home.

Is It Alive?

VA Science SOLs K.1, K.6, K.7; NGSS K-LS1-1, 1-LS3-1

How can we tell that something is a living thing? Which animals hatch from eggs, which animals are born alive, and which ones get a lot of care and teaching from their parents?

Grades 1 & 2

World Traveler

VA Science SOLs K.7(a), 1.5(a) (Also Social Science/Geography K.3, K.4, 1.4); NGSS K-ESS3-1

Your students will meet several animals from different continents and diverse habitats, and gain new understanding of how each one is adapted to its natural home.

Part of a Bigger Picture

VA Science SOLs 1.7, 2.5, 2.7(a), 2.8(c) (Also Social Science 2.5); NGSS 3-ESS2-1

We'll explore how wild animals adapt to the changing seasons in Eastern North America, and how they are adapted to survive among the trees and plants that define their natural habitats.

Grades 3 & 4

Secrets of Survival

VA Science SOLs 3.4, 3.5, 4.5; NGSS 3-LS4-3, 4-LS1-1

We'll detail some of the diverse ways animals are physically adapted and some of the unique behaviors that allow them to survive and prosper in their native environments.

Pass on the Energy

VA Science SOLs 3.5, 4.5; NGSS 5-LS2-1

All species of animals interact with many other living things. With the help of living examples we'll look at food chains, food webs, and a few other aspects of natural communities.

Grades 5 & 6

Where's Your Skeleton

VA Science SOLs 5.1, 5.5(b); NGSS MS-LS4-2

Let your students get to know better how to recognize vertebrate classes, or quickly spot an invertebrate. They'll fit these groups into the "big picture" of the classification of living things.

Who Shares the Watershed?

VA Science SOLs 6.1, 6.7, 6.9(a); NGSS MS-LS2-3, MS-LS2-5

With the help of some native animals we'll emphasize the connection between land animals (and people!) and local wetlands and the watershed.

Grades 7-12

Genetics at the Zoo

VA Science SOLs LS.12, BIO.5; NGSS MS-LS4-5

Join us for a novel presentation of basic genetic principles in relation to domestication, variation in wild populations, and the special challenges of captive breeding at the Zoo.

See the Connections

VA Science SOLs LS.6, LS.8, BIO.2, BIO.8; NGSS: MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-3

Your students will review aspects of nutrient and energy flow through ecosystems with an emphasis on the different roles taken by animals in food webs.

Here's a Good Example

VA Science SOLs LS.4, LS.9(c), BIO.4(c), BIO.6(a); NGSS: MS-LS4-2; some relevance to HS-LS4-1

A more general program that explores how an animal's general class characteristics are modified and expressed in specific adaptations to its lifestyle and natural environment.

Adult and Senior Groups

History of the Virginia Zoo

The Virginia Zoo has a rich history extending over 100 years! Join us as we turn back time with pictures, stories, and animal encounters. This program is guaranteed to be a blast from the past!

World Traveler

Join the Virginia Zoo as we take you on a journey around the world to discover exotic destinations and animals. Through an interactive presentation, biofact investigations, and animal encounters, adults can travel the globe without even leaving their chair!

Zookeeping throughout the Years

Animals have been kept in human care for thousands of years. Through interactive discussions, animal encounters, and biofact investigations, explore the historical practices of zookeepers and how these practices have evolved to focus on the health, husbandry, and conservation of animals.