

Close Encounters



Genetics at the Zoo (6th-12th)

How do tools like Punnett squares help us care for our animals? This program introduces basic genetic principles related to domestication, variation in wild populations, and the special challenges of maintaining genetic diversity within zoos.

VA Science SOLs: LS.10c; LS.11a; BIO.5a,c

NC Essential Standards (Science): 7.L.2, Bio.3.2

Species Survival Plan (6th-12th)

What is the purpose of a zoo? Join us as we explore why zoos and aquariums have important roles to play in maintaining endangered species throughout the world. Learn how a Species Survival Plan helps us keep our zoo populations diverse and the teamwork it takes to keep a species from becoming extinct.

VA Science SOLs: LS.10, LS.11a,c; BIO.5c; BIO.7b

NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.2.1.2, Bio3.1

Animal Care (6th-12th)

How do we care for over 150 different species of animals? During this 30 minute program, your group will learn all about our animals, their needs and behaviors, and how we use science to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Concepts Covered: Animal Behavior; Zoo Careers; Nutrition

Learn more at <https://virginiazoo.org/school-programs/school-group/>

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Am I in the Right Class? (6th-12th)

What's in a name? Join us for a crash course on Linnean classification. For each of the 3 animals your students meet, we'll break down every part of the animals' scientific name and discover which groups it belongs in. We'll also learn how these animals are related to each other and discuss how classifications can change as science advances.

VA Science SOLs: LS.3c; BIO.6a,f

NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.3.5

Community (Citizen) Science (6th-12th)

Scientists need you! Every day scientists sift through piles of raw data, and sometimes they need a little help. Whether it's identifying frog calls and watching bird nests or flipping through camera traps and hunting for caterpillars; scientists are asking for our help. Join the Virginia Zoo as we explore how everyday people are getting involved to help scientist further our understanding of nature.

VA Science SOLs: LS.8, LS.9, ENV.12

NC Essential Standards (Science): Bio.2.2