



You and the Museum

Grassland Animals

Pre-visit Activities

Kindergarten – 5th grade

The “You and the Museum” program is an educational walking tour that provides an opportunity for your students to see some of the animals at the museum. Time will be dependent upon the activities used and the age of your students.

The following is a list of some of the animals you may see during your tour: elephant, zebra, grizzly bear, lion, leopard, cheetah, impala, warthog, wildebeest, gazelle, buffalo and polar bear.

Creating a focus for your programs:

Explain to the students that you will be going to the Lewis County Museum of Natural History for a field trip. It is important that the students understand they will be asked to make specific observations on this trip.

Giving the students a focus for their trip will help them to make the most of their educational experience: e.g. if you decide to assign each student their own animal, you could have each student formulate questions to guide observations of their animal.

Introducing Essential Vocabulary:

Introducing/reviewing vocabulary is important for preparing the students for their outing to the museum.

These are some words that may be used during the museum visit:

1. *Camouflage* – concealment by disguise or protective coloring.
2. *Endangered* – when a species is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the near future.
3. *Extinction* – when there is no reasonable doubt the last individual has died.
4. *Habitat* – where an animal lives. The animals' needs of food, water and shelter are met here.
5. *Predator* – an animal that hunts other animals for food.
6. *Prey* – an animal that is hunted by other animals for food.
7. *Museum* – a building where objects of historical or scientific interest are kept and displayed.
8. *Herbivore* – an animal that feeds on plants.
9. *Carnivore* – an animal that feeds on flesh.

Building Background Knowledge:

Option #1 – Discuss body parts of each grassland animal. ***Yoga Kid Animal Poses***

Option #2 – You may want to assign an animal to each student and have them draw it while at the museum to help them remember what their animal looks like. ***Lion, Zebra and Elephant Information Gathering Sheets***

Option #3 – Create a mural of the continents and match an animal that lives on each continent. ***Use continent activity sheet*** ***Use “Where in the World do Animals Live?”***

Option #4 – Collect pictures as a class and decide which are herbivores and which are carnivores. ***Use herbivore/carnivore activity sheet***

Option #5 – Work in small groups to describe the physical characteristics of animals that live in the grasslands. ***Use grassland animals/teacher guide***

Preparing for the trip:

Where is the museum located?

- Use a large local map and mark where your school is and where the Lewis County Museum of Natural History is.
- Explain how you will be traveling to the museum (car or bus), and how you will be getting there (highway or roads).
- Be sure to let the students know approximately how long it will take to get to the museum.

Museum Rules

Before you visit the Lewis County Museum of Natural History it is important to tell your students the following rules:

- Please do not touch the animals. They are fragile.
- Please be respectful of the displays. This is to protect the displays from the natural oil in our skin that can leave harmful prints.
- Be respectful of other visitors in the museum by using a quiet voice while walking through the exhibits.

Grassland Bibliography