


Animal art — Design an Enclosure

Activity 1

A lot of planning goes into the design of a new enclosure. Zoo staff will meet and discuss the different requirements of an animal and research what the animal needs to live a happy and comfortable life at the zoo, keeping in mind the five needs for good animal welfare:

- need for a suitable environment
- need for a suitable diet
- need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- need to be housed with, or apart, from other animals
- need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

An example below shows what requirements Zoo staff would look at for an Amur Tiger enclosure design:

Animal	Indoor/Outdoor ratio	Material for outdoor area	Plants	Water	Barriers
 <p>Amur Tiger</p>	<p>Sleeping den inside</p> <p>Large outdoor area with dens to hide</p> <p>1:4 ratio</p>	<p>Grass</p> <p>Logs to climb</p> <p>Den to hide</p>	<p>Shrubs for hiding</p> <p>Trees for scratching poles</p>	<p>Small pond to bathe in outside</p> <p>Water to drink inside & outside</p>	<p>High level security – very dangerous animal</p>

In groups, imagine that you are designing an enclosure for another animal at ZSL London or ZSL Whipsnade Zoo – for example you could design an enclosure for a brown bear, lion or common hippopotamus.

Complete a table like the one above, and draw an aerial design of your enclosure on 1cm x 1cm graph paper. Make a scale for your drawing.

Activity 2

When working with architects, zoo staff like to see what the enclosure will look like to imagine it in the zoo.

Make a 3D model of your enclosure using materials found around your school grounds.

Activity 3

ZSL scientists and zoo staff also work throughout the world ensuring the protection of the animals and their habitats in the wild.

Many animals are under threat in the wild, due to things such as poaching, habitat loss and disease.

Here at the zoo we make posters to give the public information about the animals and the threats they face in the wild, as well as what the public can do to help protect them.

BLACK-FOOTED PENGUIN
Spheniscus demersus

These African birds are sometimes called 'jackass' penguins because their calls sound a bit like a donkey! Can you hear them?

What they eat Fish like sardines, anchovies and herring

Where they live The coasts of southern Africa

What's the story? These penguins are threatened by a dwindling food supply caused by unsustainable fishing. You can help by only buying MSC certified fish.

Conservation status

Not Evaluated Data Deficient Least Concern Near Threatened Vulnerable **Endangered** Critically Endangered Extinct in the Wild

EVOLUTIONARILY DISTINCT & GLOBALLY ENDANGERED
EDGE
This species is on our EDGE list of unique and endangered animals. EDGE helps us focus our conservation efforts where they are most needed.

LENDING TIGERS A HELPING PAW

Russia's tigers face some tough challenges:

- Habitat loss due to illegal logging
- Poaching for traditional Chinese medicine

Because of these threats there are only a few hundred left in the wild.

What are we doing to help?

ZSL works to protect tigers in national parks in Russia. We have also set up WildCats Conservation Alliance to fund other projects across Far East Russia.

Here's how:

- Monitoring camera 'traps' to learn about the tiger population and their prey, and to identify poachers
- Training anti-poaching rangers
- Working with local people to help them live alongside tigers peacefully
- And we also built Russia's first wildlife health laboratory to study diseases affecting tigers and their prey

What can you do to help tigers?

Protect Amur tigers' forest habitat by only buying sustainable timber furniture and using FSC paper and toilet rolls.

Camera trap no. 961 8°C Locati

Create a poster that could be displayed at your enclosure.

In your poster you should have information about the animal, why this animal needs protection and what your school could do to help protect that animal in the wild.

Present your enclosure and poster to the class!

Extension Activity

Imagine that you are the animal seeing your new enclosure for the first time. Write a letter of "thank-you" to the designer and explain what you like about your new home.