

MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

June 2023 – Zoos and Aquariums

Indoor activity: Diet Prep!

An expert zookeeper will have the knowledge and ability to accommodate and prepare various aspects of animal husbandry. A crucial part of a zookeepers daily responsibility is to prepare diet plans and back up diet plans for animals in their care. They are able to create a well balanced diet plan, assuring the animals receive all the nutrients and energy they need to survive. This includes keeping track of scheduled feedings, as well as substitute food items in case regularly fed items are low on supply or even out of stock completely.

Challenge yourself!: Can you create a diet plan that will give you all the vitamins and minerals you need to stay healthy?

Criteria:

- 3 meals a day
- A consistent amount of water per day (9-13 year olds should have 5-6 cups of water a day, and people 14 years or older should have at least 8 cups of water a day)
- Each meal must include 5 basic food groups (vegetables, fruit, grains,dairy, and protein)
- Do your best to limit added sugars, saturated fats, and salt



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Outdoor activity: cohabitat hike!

Zookeepers and aquarists are responsible for many types of exhibits. Sometimes they have the task of cohabitating different species of animals within the same exhibit. They study ecosystems and organisms closely to determine what conditions suit which animals.

Activity:

Go for a hike in your back yard, around your neighborhood, or even at a local park. Keep track of what kind of ecosystem you're walking by, try to consider things like food webs, temperature, water availability, plants, and most importantly animals.

Take as many notes as you can to review later. See if you can keep track of what animals you'd cohabitate if you were a zookeeper.

Using notes taken on your adventure, try to come up with an ecosystem that multiple species can live and thrive in.

Supplies:

- Notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Waterbottle
- Natural ecosystem (backyard, parks, rivers, etc...)

