



2020 Webelos Scout Activity Packet

Welcome to the wonderful world of animals at The Minnesota Zoo!

We are so glad you have decided to spend your day with us to learn more about plants, animals and the places they live! Our world is a special place and needs special care from people just like you.

The Minnesota Zoo Webelos Scout Activity Packet has been designed just for you. There are nine activities to choose from. Webelos Scouts can complete a minimum of **six** activities to earn a Zoo patch.

Patches are \$3.00 each and can be purchased at Guest Services every day except Cub Scout Day. On this day check your program insert that you get when you come in the door for information on where they are found. If you are unable to finish all activities during your visit, feel free to complete them at a later date. *However, you will want to purchase the patch before leaving. **The Minnesota Zoo patch is only available at the Minnesota Zoo not available at the Council Scout Office.***

You can start the activity packet anywhere in the Zoo, but the easiest way to complete it is to follow the route the questions take you.

Now, on with your adventure...we hope you learn many fun and interesting things, and—**HAVE FUN!!**



1. Swingin' with the Gibbons (Tropics Trail)

Look very closely at the gibbons on exhibit. They have a very special way of moving.

- What advantages do you think long arms give a gibbon?

- What special adaptations do you think gibbons have that allow them to brachiate (swinging with their arms from tree to tree)?

The gibbon lives high in the treetops. Fruit and leaves are found in the tops of these trees. The gibbons must be extremely good at balancing on thin tree limbs and excellent at moving through the tree-tops to get to other trees. Their arms are very long, which help in reaching far away tree limbs when swinging through the trees.

- Circle the behaviors that gibbons use their hands and feet for:
 - Swinging through trees
 - Grabbing and eating food
 - Hanging onto branches
 - Dancing
 - Drawing
 - Painting
 - Grasping
 - Swimming

2. Home is Where the Habitat is (Minnesota Trail)

The state of Minnesota has many different types of habitat. Briefly discuss what a habitat is.

A variety of wildlife occupy these diverse environments. Prairie, lake, marsh, coniferous forest, and deciduous woods shelter many birds, mammals, fish, reptiles, and amphibians. From the tiny vole scampering through a meadow to the magnificent bald eagle soaring over a forest of tall pines, Minnesota is home to them all.

- Find the Minnesota-shaped sign under the Medtronic Minnesota Trail sign (above your heads on your way in to the Minnesota Lodge). There are three biomes of Minnesota.
 - What is a biome?

 - How does each one differ?

As you go through the Minnesota Trail notice the different places that animals make their homes. List as many different places as you can think of and three materials they use to make their homes.



2. continued with space to write

3. Jobs for Hire (Minnesota Trail)

Observe the beavers on exhibit for a few minutes. Notice the ‘skills’ they need to do their job. If they aren’t there (beavers are nocturnal) talk to each other about beavers you may have seen somewhere else or what a beaver might be doing if it were on exhibit.

Next, pretend you are a beaver and are looking for a job. You see a lodge of beavers you don’t know and would like to join them. Your job is to convince them you would be a good addition to their colony. Following are some skills you would want to have:

- Do you have patience for cutting down trees?
- Are you good at gathering trees, repairing dams, or resting in the lodge?
- Do you have good teeth?
- Do you like all kinds of weather including the cold and snow?
- Do you get along well with pond partners?
- Are you good at gathering food to eat, like twigs and aquatic plants?
- Do you like the water? Are you a good swimmer?
- Can you stay underwater for at least 15 minutes?
- Do you know how to plug your nose so water doesn’t get in it?
- Can you see underwater?
- Do you like to stay up at night (beavers are nocturnal)?
- Are you observant for predators?
- What else might make a good beaver?

Would you hire yourself to be a beaver? Why?



4. Penguin Pals (Penguin exhibit near the gift shop)

Read the signs to find the answers to these questions.

- What kind of penguins does the Minnesota Zoo have?
 - African
 - Macaroni
 - Emperor
 - Chinstrap

- These kinds of penguins prefer cold, barren lands to nest:
 - True
 - False

- Their diet consists of:
 - Aspen logs
 - Sardines
 - Frogs
 - Squid
 - Anchovies

- How many species of penguins are there in the world:
 - 25
 - 10
 - 17
 - 5

- Penguins are awkward on land and come to beaches for nesting and molting:
 - True
 - False

- Penguins are:
 - Reptiles
 - Mammals
 - Birds
 - Fish

List three reason why you think this.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



5. Where do You Live? (Entire Zoo)

What comes to mind when you hear the words, “Exhibit Design?” Talk amongst yourselves about what you think that means.

Zoos are more than a mere collection of animals. Exhibits are engineered immersive experiences designed to educate and provide a conservation haven for animals. Write below what you think an exhibit designer needs to consider before designing an exhibit? Zoos hire exhibit designers to design safe, fun, and interactive exhibits.

There are three audiences that designers must keep in mind when creating an animal exhibit: the visitors, the animals, and the animal care staff. It can be very difficult to meet the needs of all three. The end result is usually a compromise between the three and restrictions imposed by a budget.

Below, designers want your feedback on plans for a brand new sea otter exhibit. Which idea might help sea otter conservation efforts the most?

1. An underwater walkthrough exhibit viewing the sea otters swim up close while a volunteer educates visitors to make pledges to reduce their plastic use at home.
2. A photo booth that takes photos on the background of their favorite sea otter at the zoo for one dollar that is donated towards conservation at the zoo.
3. A colorful sign that says sea otters are endangered because of pollution and tells you to recycle.

Discuss the pros and cons of each.

Write down which idea your group thought would be the most effective and why.



6. Sharks are Great Creatures! (Discovery Bay)

Read the signs to find the answers to these questions.

- How long have sharks survived?
 - 800 years
 - 1 million years
 - 400 million years
 - 100 million years

- Sharks can be found in what ocean (s):
 - The Arctic Ocean
 - The Indian and Southern Oceans
 - The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
 - All of the above

- Unlike other ocean fish, sharks and rays have skeletons made entirely of cartilage, just like your ear or nose.
 - True
 - False

- What is unique about their skin?

- Sharks can detect the electrical fields created by an animal moving in the water.
 - True
 - False

- Some sharks lay eggs.
 - True
 - False

- Some sharks give live birth.
 - True
 - False

- Predator versus Predator
 - Shark incidents kill an average of six people a year. Humans kill an estimated 100 million sharks a year! Discuss and write down three reason why you think sharks are killed?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.



7. Coral Communities (Discovery Bay)

Read the signs to find the answers to these questions.

- Coral is a type of plant.
 - True
 - False

- They require murky, deep, tropical seas so the algae that live in their tissues can avoid sunlight.
 - True
 - False

- Their diet consists of:
 - Clams
 - Sardines
 - Zooplankton (tiny floating animals)

- They are builders that may be 10,000 years old.
 - True
 - False

- Fossil fuels release something called _____. Some of this is absorbed in the ocean and it changes the chemistry of the ocean in a harmful way.
 - Carbon dioxide
 - Carbon monoxide
 - Carbonation

- Carbon dioxide is reducing the amount of _____ in the ocean. Many sea creatures need this to build strong skeletons and shells.
 - Calcium carbonate
 - Calcium oxide
 - Calcium vitamins

- Their shells and skeletons are becoming thinner. Which statement is true?
 - It matters because many of the sea creatures that are at risk from ocean acidification form the base of marine food chains. Their health and survival affect other animals, reefs, and humans too.
 - It doesn't matter because we don't live in the ocean anyway so we won't be affected by it.

- What is one way humans can reduce the amount of carbon dioxide they use?



8. What Shall I Wear? (Entire Zoo)

Animals have different body coverings depending on what animal class they are in. Talk to each other and discuss the following:

- What are some different body coverings animals have?
- What is the purpose of body coverings, and how are each used differently?

Walk through the Zoo and tally how many animals you find with each body covering.

- What kind do you think you'll find most of?
- What kind do you think you'll find least of?

Body Covering*					
Number of Animals					

*Animal body coverings include: scales, smooth skin, feathers, fur, and sometimes shells.

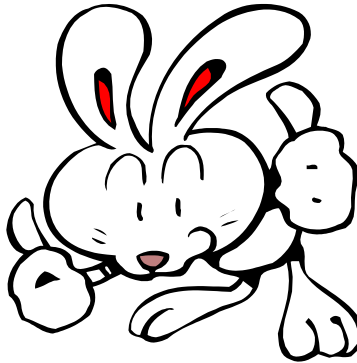
- Which body covering did you find the most of?
- Why do think this was the most prevalent body covering?

9. Story Time! (Entire Zoo)

Write a short story, that's at least four-sentences long, about one new thing you learned today.



Thank you for being a guest at the Minnesota Zoo today. We are glad your den/pack was interested in learning more about animals and supporting your local Zoo. Now that you have learned many interesting things about animals, the next step is to take that information out into your community and teach others about this precious resource. Keep the spark going so that everyone will have the opportunity to see animals in quality zoos and best of all, in their natural environment for years to come.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

You have completed The Minnesota Zoo Webelo activity packet!
Now that you have completed your activities please sign your name below and have an adult sign as well.

If you are completing some activities after your zoo visit, you may still take the activity patch home with you today. It is not available at your local Council Scout Office.

(Scout Signature)

(Leader/Parent Signature)

(Date)