



# ANIMAL AUTHORITIES

Research an animal found at Fort Wayne Children's Zoo



## GRADE K

### KEY WORDS

- den
- litter
- nurse

### STANDARD

- SCI.K.3

### OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about a specific animal by reading and doing research.
- Students will learn that zoos play an important role in helping to protect wildlife by doing research on animals and the survival of their young.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Zoos try to prevent the decrease of animal species by doing research on animals and their young.
- Zoos research ways to increase the number of young born, as well as what animals need to live.

### PROCEDURE

- Have each student select an animal to study in order to become an “animal authority.” Attempt to keep the selections within the animal population at Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo.
- Have students go to the library to check out books about their selected animals that can be read at home with the help of a parent or guardian.
- Encourage the students to learn as much as possible about their animal and to answer the following:
  - What does it look like?
  - What size is it?
  - What food does it eat?
  - What kind of home does it make?
  - How many babies does it have?
  - How does it care for its babies?
- Have the students use the worksheet to record information they learn about their animal and to draw a picture of their animal.

### RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Have the students present what they learned to the class.

### EXTENSIONS

- When visiting the zoo, ask the students to observe the animal they chose to research.
- Encourage them to think about how the animal is being cared for at the zoo.

### TEACHER HINTS

- Make sure that the students are choosing books with factual and up-to-date information.





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Circle the answer for your animal. Draw the animal in the center.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

teeth  
no teeth  
a beak

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

on land  
in water  
both

**MY ANIMAL'S BABIES:**

hatch from eggs  
are born alive

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

legs  
no legs

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

\_\_\_\_\_ babies

**MY ANIMAL IS:**

big  
medium  
small

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

fur  
feathers  
scales

**MY ANIMAL HAS:**

paws          flippers  
claws         hooves  
webbed feet   fins

Here's a picture of my animal