



SELF-GUIDED BACKPACK TOUR

ADAPTATIONS Pre-K through 2nd Grade Pre/Post - Zoo Activity



Objective: Identify animal characteristics and how these characteristics categorize animals and help them to adapt into their environment.

TEKS:

Kindergarten – Students can

- K.5a – describe properties of objects and characteristics of organisms
- K.5b – observe and identify patterns
- K.5c – recognize and copy patterns
- K.6a – sort organisms into groups according to their parts
- K.6c – record observations about parts of an animal

Grade 1 – Students can

- 1.5a – sort objects and events based on properties and patterns
- 1.6a – sort organisms according to their parts and characteristics
- 1.6b - record observations about parts of an animal

Grade 2 – Students can

- 2.5a – classify and sequence organisms based on properties and patterns
- 2.5b – identify, predict, replicate, and create patterns
- 2.6d – observe and record the functions of animal parts
- 2.7a – identify characteristics of living organisms

Essential Question?:

How do animal characteristics and patterns help them to survive?

Vocabulary:

Characteristic	Stripe	Spots	Reptile
Pattern	Bird	Mammal	Talon

Materials:

- Bag of 12 objects (buttons, feather, paperclip, pencil, penny, rock, etc.) /1 bag per group
- Photos, cut-outs, clippings of animal photos / six to eight pictures per group

Pre-Zoo Activity:



SELF-GUIDED BACKPACK TOUR

ADAPTATIONS Pre-K through 2nd Grade Pre/Post - Zoo Activity



Distribute a bag of 12 objects to each student group. Students should be in small groups or pairs. Have the students discuss the objects in their bag and characteristics they observe as a class. Then have the students put the objects into groups by their own design. They each need to create three or more groups and give each group a title. Clarify that they can organize by color, shape, pattern, size, etc. After students have grouped the objects discuss how they categorized their groups. Explain that animals are also grouped by their characteristics. Discuss characteristics of different groups of animals (mammals, reptiles, birds, etc.) After discussing these characteristics provide various pictures of animals to students and have the students group the animal pictures according to their physical characteristics.

In-Zoo Activity:

Adaptations Backpack – Creature Features BINGO – Available at the Fort Worth Zoo Education Center by registering your group at www.fortworthzoo.org.

Post-Zoo Activity:

As a class, list 15-20 species of animals you saw at the Zoo. Organize the animals into different categories based upon characteristics voted on by the class (color, size, pattern, etc.) The animals will be categorized into those groups on the board. (Optional: Teachers can take pictures of the animals during the Zoo visit if preferred and then print off pictures to attach to the board.) Through class discussion, reiterate that scientists use characteristics to categorize animals. Discuss the purpose behind those characteristics. What did students learn about the importance of animal characteristics such as large ears or green coloration for an animal's survival?

Extension:

After organizing the animals by characteristics, students reorganize the animals by types (bird, mammal, fish, reptile, etc.) or leave the animals in the chosen categories but identify each as a bird, mammal, fish or reptile.