



## Alexandria Zoo Education Program Themes

### Pre-Kindergarten

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#### Wild About Story Time

Join us as story time comes to life at the Alexandria Zoo! Hear a wildlife-based story and then explore the animals we read about up close.

#### Louisiana Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards

CS 1 Indicators:

- Use all five senses to observe, collect information, describe observations, classify based on observations, and form conclusions about what is observed. [4.1]

CS 3 Indicators:

- Explore, observe, and describe a variety of living creatures and plants. [4.1]
- Classify living creatures and plants into categories according to at least one characteristic. [4.2]
- Describe and follow guidelines for how to interact with living creatures appropriately (e.g., hold the hamster gently, observe the fish without tapping the fish bowl). [4.4]
- Use basic vocabulary to name and describe plants and living creatures. [4.6]
- Use basic vocabulary to describe similarities and differences between living creatures and plants. [4.7]

### Kindergarten

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#### Drip, Drip, Splash! Weather and Wildlife

Drip, drip, splash! Weather is different on our planet depending on the time of the year and where you live. We'll explore the weather found in different areas and how animals overcome these survival challenges.

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (Kindergarten)

Weather is the combination of sunlight, wind, snow or rain, and temperature in a particular region at a particular time. People measure these conditions to describe and record the weather and to notice patterns over time. (LE.ESS2D.a)

#### Next Generation Science Standards:

K-ESS2-1 Earth's Systems

ESS2.D Weather and Climate

K-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organism: Structures and Processes

LS1.C Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms



## Grades 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>

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### Home Sweet Home

Home sweet home! All living things have a place to call home, but is it as simple as a safe place to rest your head at night? Join us as we discover what living things need to survive.

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

All organisms have external parts. Different animals use their body parts in different ways to see, hear, grasp objects, protect themselves, move from place to place, and seek, find, and take in food, water, and air. Plants also have different parts (roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits) that help them survive and grow. (LE.LS1A.a)

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

There are many kinds of living things in any area, and they exist in different places on land, in water, and in air. (LE.LS4D.a)

#### Next Generation Science Standards:

1-LS1-1 From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

LS1.A Structure and Function

LS1.D Information Processing

## Grades 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>

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### Perfectly Adapted

Surviving out in nature can be a challenge, but wildlife has many features to make the job of survival easier. Join us as we explore a variety of animal adaptations!

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing. (UE.LS4B.a)

For any particular environment, some kinds of organisms survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all. (UE.LS4C.a)

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Different sense receptors are specialized for particular kinds of information, which then may be processed by the animal's brain. Animals are able to use their perceptions and memories to guide their actions. (UE.LS1D.a)

#### Next Generation Science Standards:

3- LS34-3 Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

LS4.C: Adaptation



## Grades 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>

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Walking Tour

### The Web of Life

Join us as we “sink our teeth” into the connections between wildlife. We’ll explore the tangled complexity of food chains and food webs.

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

The energy released from food was once energy from the sun that was captured by plants in the chemical process that forms plant matter (from air and water). (UE.PS3D.b)

The food of almost any kind of animal can be traced back to plants. Organisms are related in food webs in which some animals eat plants for food and other animals eat the animals that eat plants. (UE.LS2A.a)

Some organisms, such as fungi and bacteria, break down dead organisms and therefore operate as “decomposers.” Decomposition eventually restores (recycles) some materials back to the soil. (UE.LS2A.b)

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

In any ecosystem, organisms and populations with similar requirements for food, water, oxygen, or other resources may compete with each other for limited resources, access to which consequently constrains their growth and reproduction. (MS.LS2A.b)

Predatory interactions may reduce the number of organisms or eliminate whole populations of organisms. Mutually beneficial interactions, in contrast, may become so interdependent that each organism requires the other for survival. Although the species involved in these competitive, predatory, and mutually beneficial interactions vary across ecosystems, the patterns of interactions of organisms with their environments, both living and nonliving, are shared. (MS.LS2A.d)

#### Next Generation Science Standards:

5-LS2-1 Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics

LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

## Grades 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

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Walking Tour

### Different is Great

Different doesn’t have to be a bad thing! Together we’ll meet some unique animals and explore how their differences make them important to our planet.

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Biodiversity describes the variety of species found in Earth’s terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. The completeness or integrity of an ecosystem’s biodiversity is often used as a measure of its health. (MS.LS2C.b)

Ecosystems are dynamic in nature; their characteristics can vary over time. Disruptions to any physical or biological component of an ecosystem can lead to shifts in all its populations. (MS.LS2C.a)

#### Louisiana Student Standards: Science (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Adaptation by natural selection acting over generations is one important process by which populations change over time in response to changes in environmental conditions. Traits that support successful survival and reproduction in the new environment tend to become more common; those that do not become less common. Thus, the distribution of traits in a population changes. (MS.LS4C.a)



## High School or Adult

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Walking Tour

### Zoo Careers

Interested in what it takes to work at a zoo? Or wondering about all the different teams it takes to keep a zoo running? Join us as we explore these questions and more.

*Specific career topics can be highlighted upon request.*

## High School or Adult

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Walking Tour

### The Modern Zoo

The zoos we know and love today are very different from the menageries of the past. Join us as we dive into the history of zoological facilities and discover what makes the Alexandria Zoo a great example of a modern zoo.

## All Ages

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### Design Your Own

Looking to explore a specific topic with your group or class? We can plan a special program to highlight, or connect to, the wildlife topic of your choosing. Due to the time needed to plan this program, booking must be at least three weeks in advance.