

Animal Care

K-2 Pre-Activity

Lesson Summary

Students express different ways in which they take care of themselves. After sharing, they consider what different people or living things might need.

Objectives

Students will be able to examine their own needs for care

Students will be able to compare and contrast different needs between people or between animals

Essential Question

What do living things need to be properly cared for?

Materials

- Scrap paper
- Writing utensils
- Coloring utensils

Prep

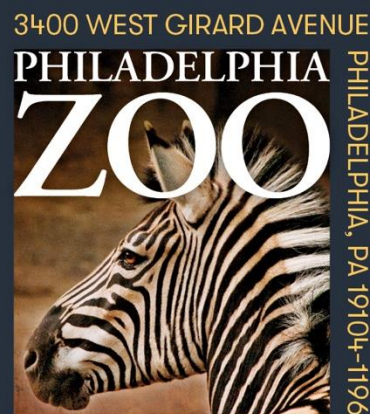
1. 1 day before: Prepare supplies and decide how students will express and portray their needs (through discussion, writing, or art).

Key Terms

- **Zookeeper:** The person/people responsible for the daily care animals that live at the zoo for conservation purposes
- **Veterinarian:** A doctor for animals.
- **Basic Needs:** All living things including animals need food, water, and shelter to survive and these are called their basic needs. Different animals have different types of specific needs.
- **Hygiene:** The practice of keeping clean, for example a habitat to ensure health and prevent sickness for one's self or another being.
- **Diet:** The specific types and amounts of food and drink eaten and drunk by an animal.
- **Enrichment:** Practices or items that improve the quality care for animals, by encouraging natural behaviors and simultaneously exercising the bodies and minds of the animals.
- **Training:** The practice of teaching an animal a specific behavior or skills for enrichment and for the benefit or their care.
- **Choice:** The act of animals being able to decide if they want to participate in training or not.
- **Husbandry:** The care of animals including observing to monitor health, cleaning to ensure hygiene, preparing and providing diets, training for care and enrichment.

Background

Animal Care is a full team effort. Many people are involved in making sure every animal is taken care of in a safe and healthy environment, is given all of the necessary basic needs, and is provided enrichment as well. Although



many people think of zookeepers and veterinarians as the main animal caretakers at a Zoo, many different people and careers are important. This also includes nutritionists, curators, scientific researchers, maintenance, and many more!

Those that work in animal care are animal advocates and protectors, striving to give these animals the best life possible in the name of conservation. They work together and collaborate to make sure that their animals basic needs are met every day, but also their mental wellbeing. They take observations to make decisions on how to maintain safety for the animals, proper type and amount of food, hygiene, and enrichment.

Implementation

1. Excite: Ask students to share some of the ways in which they take care of themselves. This can be done through discussion, through art, or through journaling. Invite students to share out afterwards.
2. Explore: Invite students to share out in pairs, groups, or as a whole class the ways in which they take care of themselves.
3. Ask students to consider ways in which the way in which they might take care of themselves might be similar or different to one another. Then, ask them to consider if they think animals might need to take care of themselves similarly or differently, and to provide reasoning.
4. Explain: Confirm that indeed we all need care in different ways. Whether it's the foods we need or like to eat, whether it's the amount of sleep we need, whether is the amount of space we might prefer to have from one another, whether it's the types of things we like to do for fun, etc. Animals also need care in different ways, whether it's a different type of animal or even a different individual of the same animal.
5. Elaborate: Ask the students to compile a list of information or questions that would be important to find the answers for in order to take care of an animal that they have never met before.
6. Come together as a group to narrow down some of the key, most important questions that we would need the answers for in order to care for that animal properly.
7. Evaluate: Encourage students to begin researching answers and solutions, through books, online research, documentaries, etc.

Expansion

Continue student reflection on taking care of themselves or taking care of others by asking questions like:

- Describe some ways in which you take care of yourself
- Describe a time that you had to take care of something or someone else.
- Describe something that you are passionate about

Curriculum References

3.1.1.A2, 4.3.1.B, 4.3.2.B, 3.1.2.C2, 4.1.1.C, 4.1.2.C

