

## **African Elephant Crossing and African Savanna Scavenger Hunt: Grades 9-12**

1. Animals have five senses: hearing, sight, smell, touch, and taste. Observe the elephants in their exhibit for five minutes. Which of the five senses do you see the elephants using their trunks to perceive? Can you see them using their trunks for any other purposes?
2. Walk around the African Elephant Crossing exhibit, both the outdoor and indoor pens. How does the African Elephant Crossing exhibit promote elephant health and wellness? Can you identify any enrichment objects in the exhibit that keep the elephants mentally and physically stimulated?
3. After walking around the elephant exhibit and reading the informational posters, what are some of the issues and crises facing elephants in the wild?
4. Head over to the lion exhibit. Observe the lions while you reflect on the fact that lions and humans live in the same environments in Africa. What types of conflicts might arise between humans and lions in Africa? How might conservation organizations attempt to address these conflicts?
5. Unlike all other big cats, lions are social animals and live in groups called prides. Related females and their cubs make up the core structure of a pride, while male members come and go. In this type of social structure, what role might a male lion have? What role might a female lion have? Observe the differences in their bodies. What features does a male lion have that suit his designated role? What features does a female lions have that suit her designated role?
6. While you are walking through the African Savanna, study the unique patterns of the zebra and the giraffe. How are zebra stripes, giraffe patterns, and human fingerprints similar?
7. Ostriches can run over 40mph. Observe the ostriches and study their body shape and their movement. How are their bodies designed for speed?
8. Giraffe have very long legs which causes them to walk in a unique, particular pattern. Observe the giraffe walking. What do you notice about the order in which they take steps? (Hint: while a giraffe is walking, record the order in which each foot touches the ground.)
9. Walk over to the rhinoceros habitat. Compare the gait pattern of the giraffe to that of the rhinoceros. (Again, while the rhinoceros is walking, record the order in which each foot touches the ground.) How are the walking patterns different?
10. Many animals that you have seen today have prehensile appendages (body parts). Think back to the elephants, giraffe, and rhinoceros. What body parts do they use to explore, touch, and grasp objects?