



Wilderness Trek Scavenger Hunt: Grades 7-8

1. Head into Wolf Cabin. Wolves are social animals and live in groups called packs. Wolves communicate with each other both vocally and with body language. Observe the wolves and think about wolves' closest relatives, the domestic dog. What vocalizations and what types of body language might wolves exhibit to communicate with each other?
2. Beavers are known for building dams, or collections of sticks, mud, and stones built on rivers and creeks. Their dams contain an entrance that is only accessible underwater. Why might this be beneficial for beavers?
3. Beavers have incisors, or front teeth, that constantly grow. Observe the beaver exhibit, particularly in and around the dam. How do you think a beaver keeps these teeth trimmed?
4. Bald eagles are large birds of prey, which means they feed on small animals and fish. Observe our bald eagle. How are eagles well equipped to catching, killing, and eating small animals and fish?
5. Exit Wolf Cabin and head over to the reindeer exhibit. Reindeer, or caribou, are commonly preyed upon by wolves in the far north. Without wolves to prey on reindeer, what would happen to the reindeer population? Why would this be a problem?
6. Head around the bend to the North American bear exhibits. Here you will find grizzly bears (or North American brown bears) and black bears. Compare and contrast these large bear species. Which species is larger? What color is each species? Do you notice any unique physical characteristics? Read the signs in the exhibit: which species has a larger range?
7. Grizzly bears are known to hibernate in the wild when winter comes and cold weather makes food hard to find. Here at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, it gets cold in the winter, but our grizzlies do not hibernate. Why do you think this is?
8. Seals and sea lions are closely related but they have a few noticeable differences. Sea Lions are usually larger, have long front flippers, and have ear flaps. Seals are usually smaller, have short and stubby front flippers, and have no ear flaps. How many seals do you see? How many sea lions?
9. Walk over to observe our smaller bears: the Andean bear, the sun bear, and the sloth bear. The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is working with the Andean Bear Conservation Alliance to study Andean bear populations in South America. Why is it important to study population size and distribution when attempting to address endangered or vulnerable animal species?
10. Head over to Rosebrough Tiger Passage and observe our three tigers. Tigers are not very fast runners, but the prey they eat like deer, wild pigs, and wild buffalo, are very fast. If the prey can outrun the tiger, what skills other than speed would a tiger need to rely on to catch prey?