

African Elephant Crossing and African Savanna Scavenger Hunt: Grades 7-8

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. After walking around the elephant exhibit and reading the informational posters, what are some of the issues and crises facing elephants in the wild?
3. While you are observing the meerkats, do you notice any of the meerkats exhibiting unique or interesting behaviors? What does it appear that they are doing?
4. Naked mole rats live their whole lives underground. Watch the naked mole rats and read the information posters near their exhibits. What is the benefit of living underground for these small animals?
5. Head over to the lion exhibit and observe the lions. Unlike all other big cats, lions are social animals and live in groups called prides. What do you think the benefit is to living in a group for lions?
6. Walk over to the African savanna and observe the bontebok and zebra. Both of these animals are herding grazers that live in the open African grasslands. Zebras are known for their black-and-white stripes. Why do you think zebras have stripes; what is the benefit of having stripes?
7. Walk up to the giraffe exhibit and make note of the layout and features of the exhibit. How do you think the zoo promotes natural behavior for giraffe?
8. Ostrich, like penguins and emu, are flightless birds. Watching the ostriches in their exhibit and paying particular attention to their bodies, how have ostriches adapted to being flightless? What is their primary means of movement?
9. Walk over to the rhinoceros habitat. Rhinoceros are critically endangered with only about 5,000 left in the world. How do you think zoos can address rhino population decrease?
10. Observe the rhinoceros and study their bodies and the way they move. How are they adapted to the desert climate?