



Education

Program Catalog



NEW!

Virtual Programming
Digital Discovery Classes
Zooteach PD for Educators



Digital Discovery Classes

Standards alignment follows class description. While program topics are aligned by grade standards, these offerings are available to any grade.

All Ages

Zoo Careers (30 min)

During this program, your students will learn about the diverse careers it takes to run a zoo from animal care staff to who coordinates our special events! They will have an opportunity to meet a zookeeper and one of our ambassador animals, hear their story, and ask any questions they may have. Students will also receive a digital file containing the career biographies of 15 staff members from across the zoo.

Ask the Zoo! (30 min)

Is your class focusing on a specific animal or topic? In this custom program, one of our Zoo Educators will show biofacts and answer questions you and your class have about your topic of choice!



Spanish Language Classes

Animals of Central and South America (1 hour)

Únete a esta clase to meet the Birmingham Zoo's animals of Central and South America while students follow along with a vocabulary worksheet. We will discuss the names, ages, and descriptors of these animals in both English and Spanish. Students will meet one of our ambassador animals. *This class is recommended for beginner level Spanish learners.*

Kindergarten

It's Alive! (30 min)

Students will learn what makes something a living thing. They will also discuss that living things need food, water, and air in order to survive. Students will then work together or independently to classify living and non-living things. **K3**



1st grade

Creature Copycat (30 min)

Students will learn about some of the amazing tools that plants and animals use to survive, as well as some real-world inventions that have been created with nature inspiration. Students will then have a chance to design their own creation taking clues from nature! **1.5**

2nd grade

Habitat Adventures (30 min)

Students will gear up for adventure as they virtually explore the many types of habitats around the world. After learning about the abundance of habitats and the cool creatures who call each habitat home, students will design a suitable habitat for their favorite stuffed animal or toy! **2.7**

3rd grade

Survival Swap (30-45 min)

During this program, students will take part in a survival swap. Explore the adaptations that help two different animals survive in their native habitats. Using the information learned, students will determine what would happen if the two animals switched homes. Discuss adaptations that would help each animal survive in a new habitat and which adaptations would increase their chances of survival. Students will meet one of our ambassador animals. **3.11**

4th grade

Super Senses (30-45 min)

Have you ever wondered if you can see as well as an owl or hear like an elephant? After learning about the five senses that all living things use to process the world around them, students will investigate a variety of animal senses. Learn which Birmingham Zoo residents have super senses and compare their abilities to their own. Students will meet one of our ambassador animals. **4.11**

5th grade

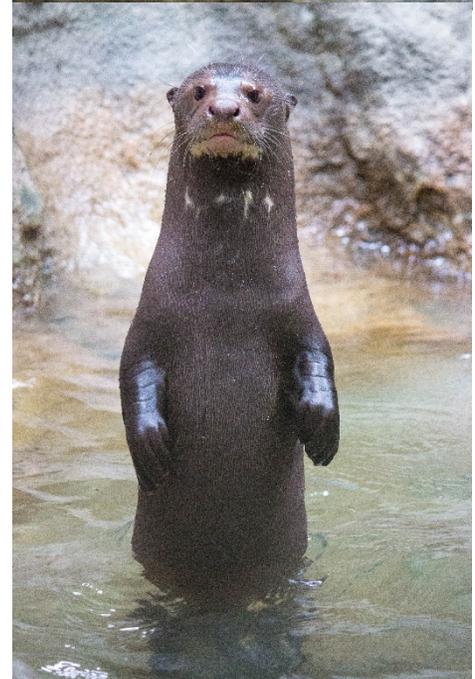
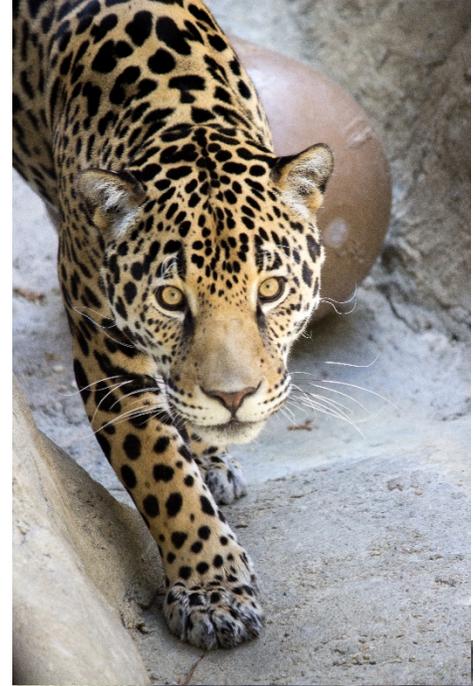
The Dirt on Dirt (30-45 min)

By the end of this lesson, we will convince you and your students how decomposers can turn dung into a delicious strawberry milkshake! Students will learn about what decomposers are and why they are important to our world. Students will also get the chance to virtually meet some very cool decomposers who call the Birmingham Zoo home! **5.11**

6th grade

A Case for Conservation (30-45 min)

Students will learn about conservation and its growing role in our world. Students will learn about human impacts through case stories in conservation, including current challenges and success stories. We will also discuss what young people today can do to care for the world around them and introduce your students to one of our ambassador animals. **6.15**





7th grade

The Role of Genetics in the Modern Zoo (1 hour)

Tired of using Mendel's peas to talk about genetics? Let our trained educators explain how zoos and aquariums use genetics to maintain healthy populations in human care. Students will then be presented with an activity: if they were in charge of making the next breeding recommendation for a species with a dominant disease allele, which two animals would they recommend if they could view their genotypes? **7.12, 7.18**



8th grade

Physics at the Zoo (1 hour)

Physics may not be the first thing people think of when they come to the zoo, but it is found everywhere! Why are some animals so fast while others fall behind? A rhino's head makes up $\frac{1}{4}$ of its total body weight—how is it possible to hold it up?! Focusing on the physics of animals, students will apply physics concepts to a variety of animals at the Birmingham Zoo. **8.8, 8.13, 8.18**

High School

Changing World, Changing Species (45 min)

Our world is always changing, and all living things must adapt in order to survive. Recently, human impacts have begun influencing physical and/or behavioral changes in certain animal populations. Students will discuss species that are quickly adapting to the changes in our modern world, species that may not be adapting quickly enough, and what they can do to help. **Biology 14 Environmental Science 4, 6**



Comparative Anatomy (1 hour)

Whales don't have legs....do they? In this lesson, we will compare homologous structures between species and discuss the evolutionary implications of these structures. Students will then have the opportunity to see a vestigial structure on one of our Ambassador animals! **Human Anatomy and Physiology 4.a Biology 14, 16**

Elephants on the Move: A Case Study (1.5 hours)

How does an altered landscape affect a herd of migrating elephants? After learning about how elephants themselves shape the savannahs of Africa, your students will use real data to graph the changes in an elephant migration route through Tsavo National Park before and after the introduction of wildlife corridors. Students will then watch an exclusive clip of the elephants here at the Birmingham Zoo! **Environmental Science 3, 4, 6, 7**

Program Length	Number of Students	Price
30 – 45 minutes	Up to 25	\$75
Each additional program \$60.00		
1 – 1.5 hours	Up to 25	\$125
Each additional program \$100.00		

ZOOteach PD

A professional development series for teachers

CEU credit available

How to be an outsider (recommended for pre-K-2nd educators)

What is nature play and how can we incorporate the natural world into our lessons from behind a screen? How is free play important for the health and development of young learners? Learn the answers to these questions and receive resources and activities during this 1-hour webinar.

Friday, October 16th, 10am-11am

Monday, March 15th 2021, 10am-11am

1CEU

Creating Emotionally Healthy Learning Spaces (recommended for pre-K-2nd educators)

This webinar will cover how to best reach your students based on their emotional development, how children react physically and emotionally to stress, and how to modify your disciplinary practices and classroom spaces to nurture a healthy learning environment.

Monday, November 9th, 10am-11am

Friday, February 5th 2021, 10am-11am

1 CEU

Evolution for Educators (recommended Middle and High School educators)

Natural selection, evolutionary timelines, and survival of the fittest may seem like daunting topics to easily relay, but this webinar will provide activities and resources that will help you share these concepts with your students in creative and impactful ways.

Friday, October 30th, 9am-12pm

3 CEUs

Integrated STEM (recommended for all grades)

How do we teach innovative lessons in the digital age? Join this webinar to learn about interactive STEM-based activities that translate effectively in a webinar format.

Friday, September 25th, 3:15pm-4:15pm

Friday, January 15th 2021, 10am-11am

1 CEU

To book one of our virtual classes, or for more information, please email Kate Davis at kdavis@birminghamzoo.com