Self-Guided Activity Tour for 6-8th Grade

Can be completed alone, with the help of an adult or as a group.

Fill in the blanks to the questions below. Some of the answers can be found by observation. Others can be found in the exhibit signage.

**SOL’s Covered:**
Science: 6.7d, LS.4b-d, LS.8b, LS.9c, LS.11b & d, LS.13a
English: 6.1a, 6.3c, 6.5d, 7.6a & f, 8.4b, 8.6a, e, h & i

1) We are smaller than our North American cousins, and our paws are different too. Ours are only partially webbed.
   Who are we? __________________________
   Humans aren’t the only animals that communicate with each other. In what ways do we “talk” to one another? __________________________
   Our tail is 1/3rd the length of our body. What do we use it for? __________________________

2) These canids were hunted to near extinction. Even with the conservation efforts of zoos like Mill Mountain, there are still only about 100 of them living in the wild.
   Who are they? __________________________
   How do they communicate with one another? __________________________
   When the population of a predator goes down, it can cause an overpopulation of the animals they prey on for food. What prey animal’s population has increased for this reason? __________________________

3) This unusual looking 4 legged animal is a type of domesticated cattle.
   Who is it? __________________________
   If this animal cannot find food, what is it able to do? __________________________
   Domesticated cattle are the most abundant mammal in the world, with the exception of what other mammal? __________________________

4) Since I have shorter legs than other cats, I can’t run very fast. Instead, I catch my prey by ambushing it from behind vegetation or rock cover.
   Who am I? __________________________
   I prefer to be awake and hunt at dusk and dawn. What is this called? __________________________
My species is considered beneficial to the environment. Why?
__________________________________________

5) Although I’m native to rainforests in Southeast Asia, you can find an invasive population of us living in the Everglades in Florida.
   Who am I? _______________________________________
   I have an excellent sense of smell, but I don’t use my nose. What do I use? _________________
   Even though we are an invasive species in Florida, we are threatened in our native habitat.
   What are the 2 main causes? _____________________________

6) This feline species can be found throughout much of Europe and Asia.
   Who is it? _____________________________
   What is its main food source? _____________________________
   Although this species population has rebounded, from the 1930-50’s how many were left? _______

7) These small canids are the most widely distributed in the world but are still rarely seen due to their shy nature.
   Who are we? _______________________________
   What is one of the ways we communicate with each other? ________________________________
   At what age do pups leave the den to go find their own territory? _____________________________

8) This arboreal (spends most of its time in trees) animal has a very specialized diet. In fact, their diet consists almost entirely of bamboo shoots and leaves!
   Who are they? _______________________________
   What animal are they related to? ________________________________
   There is a reason the zoo grows so much bamboo. What percentage of their body weight can these animals eat in one day? ________________________________

9) Unlike many birds, where males are more colorful than females, males and females of our species are colored the same, but females are larger.
   Who are we? ________________________________
   What kind of habitat would you find us? ________________________________
   How large can our wingspan be? ________________________________

10) What was your favorite part of your visit to the zoo? ____________________________
    Why? ____________________________
    There are no wrong answers!

Please pick up an answer sheet to check your answers and come back to the Zoo soon!
Answer Key
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1) Who are we? Asian Small-Clawed Otters
Humans aren’t the only animals that communicate with each other. In what ways do we “talk” to one another? Vocalizations, Scent Markings & Sign Heaps
Our tail is 1/3rd the length of our body. What do we use it for? Propulsion and steering when swimming and for balance when standing upright.

2) Who are they? Red Wolves
How do they communicate with one another? Howling, Scent Marking, Facial Expressions & Body Postures
When the population of a predator goes down, it can cause an overpopulation of the animals they prey on for food. What prey animal’s population has increased for this reason? White-Tailed Deer

3) Who is it? Dwarf Zebu
If this animal cannot find food, what is it able to do? Briefly live off the fat stored in its hump
Domesticated cattle are the most abundant mammal in the world, with the exception of what other mammal? Man

4) Who am I? Pallas Cat
I prefer to be awake and hunt at dusk and dawn. What is this called? Crepuscular
My species is considered beneficial to the environment. Why? We feed on agricultural pests, such as mice and rats.

5) Although I’m native to rainforests in Southeast Asia, you can find an invasive population of us living in the Everglades in Florida.
Who am I? Burmese Python
I have an excellent sense of smell, but I don’t use my nose. What do I use? My tongue
Even though we are an invasive species in Florida, we are threatened in our native habitat. What are the 2 main causes? Wild collection for the pet trade and for skin to be used as leather.

6) Who is it? Eurasian Lynx
What is its main food source? Deer
Although this species population has rebounded, from the 1930-50’s how many were left? 500

7) Who are we? Red foxes
What is one of the ways we communicate with each other? With 28 different types of vocalizations
At what age do pups leave the den to go find their own territory? 4 months old

8) Who are they? Red Panda
What animal are they related to? Raccoon
There is a reason the zoo grows so much bamboo. What percentage of their body weight can these animals eat in one day? 45%

9) Who are we? Bald eagles
What kind of habitat would you find us? Trees, cliffs or man-made structures near large, open bodies of water
How large can our wingspan be? 6 feet

10) What was your favorite part of your visit to the zoo? There are no wrong answers!