

Animals A to Zoo

| | | WEEK 1 ANIMALS A | -E |
|---|---|---|---|
| STEAM STATION | YOUR SUPPLIES | BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS | TEACHER TIPS |
| LESSON 1 Alligator Teeth SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science PD 2 Fine Motor | Playdough Golf tees or craft sticks | How many teeth does an alligator have? | Set out playdough and golf tees or craft sticks. Encourage the children to press the items into the playdough and make an alligator mouth full of teeth. |
| LESSON 2 Nature Nests MR 7 Logic & Reasoning PD 2 Fine Motor CA 3 Visual Arts | Nature items | What are nests used for? | Gather a variety of nature items such as leaves, sticks, rocks and flowers. Encourage the children to construct a bird's nest using any desired nature items. |
| LESSON 3 Climbing Camels PD 1 Gross Motor MR 7 Logic & Reasoning | Pillows Blankets | Why do camels have humps? | Set up a mound of pillows somewhere outside (on a soft surface, such as grass, if possible). Cover the mound with a blanket. Encourage the children to climb over the "camel hump" or create their own obstacle course. |
| LESSON 4 Under the Sea SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science CA 4 Drama | Crepe paper or fabric strips Stuffed animals Sea creature figurines Ocean books Tape | What kind of creatures live in the sea? | Place a table in the Dramatic Play area. Tape blue crepe paper or fabric strips under the table to create an ocean. Place sea creature toys or stuffed animals under the table Set out ocean books (fiction and non-fiction), if desired. |
| LESSON 5 Inside an Elephant MR 7 Logic & Reasoning SED 1 Self-Awareness | Tape Building materials: blocks, cups, bowls | How much does a real elephant eat? | Use tape to create a large elephant outline on the floor. Encourage the children to build within that shape. Set out a variety of building materials such as blocks and cups/bowls. |
| | | WEEK 2 ANIMALS F | -K |
| LESSON 6 Fox's Den CA 4 Drama SED 4 Social Relationships | Tent or large box Blanket Sheet Flashlight Animal books | Why do foxes build dens? | Set out a tent or a large box with an opening (or cover a table with a blanket). Place a sheet and other cozy materials inside. Put a flashlight and some animal books inside the den. |
| LESSON 7 Nature's Tools LLD 7 Writing SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry | Nature items Sand tray | What tools do gorillas use? | Set out nature items (sticks, plant stems, rocks, etc.) and a sand tray. Explain that gorillas mostly eat stems, plants and fruit. Encourage the children to use the nature item to draw designs and pictures in the sand. |
| LESSON 8 Dry & Wet | Bins of sand (2) Stirring tools Water | Why might hippos like cold, | Set out two bins of sand. Pour water into one of the bins but keep the other dry. Place some stirring tools in both bins. Encourage the children to explore, stir and feel the |
| Sand sci 3 Physical Science MR 7 Logic & Reasoning sci 4 Technology | | wet sand or mud? | different textures. |
| SCI 3 Physical Science MR 7 Logic & Reasoning | Pipecleaners Building materials: cardboard tubes, blocks | How do inchworms move? | Set out pipecleaners and a variety of building materials. Encourage the children to build paths or tunnels for the "inchworms" (pipecleaners) to travel on/in. |

| WEEK 3 ANIMALS L-R | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| STEAM STATION | YOUR SUPPLIES | BIG QUESTION AND INSPIRATION PHOTOS | TEACHER TIPS | |
| LESSON 11 Wool Shop SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry SS 2 Civics & Economics CA 4 Drama | Variety of yarns Recycled objects | How is wool spun into yarn? | Gather a variety of different-colored yarn. Set up to resemble a yarn/wool store. Set out a variety of recycled objects (bottles, cardboard tubes, etc.) for the children to wrap yarn around. | |
| Moose Paths ss 3 Geography SED 4 Social Relationships | Nature items | How can you build a moose path? | Gather nature items, such as large sticks, rocks and leaves. Work together to make paths or trails for a moose to walk on. Encourage the children to create paths all around the outdoor play area, then follow them. | |
| Ramps & Slides SC13 Physical Science PD 2 Fine Motor SC14 Technology | Ramp Cardboard tubes Objects that roll | How do otters play? | Set out rolling objects and flat surfaces that can be used for ramps. Set out cardboard tubes for the children to connect and roll objects down. Explain that otters love to slide down rivers, rocks and mud slides. Invite the children to make an otter playground. | |
| LESSON 14 ICE Towers sc13 Physical Science MR 7 Logic & Reasoning | Containers with water Bin Arctic animal toys (optional) | How can ice be used to build a structure? | Fill various containers with water and freeze them overnight. Remove the ice from the containers and place inside a bin. Invite the children to explore stacking the ice shapes and creating ice towers. If desired, add arctic animal toys. | |
| LESSON 15 Shedding Skin MR 7 Logic & Reasoning PD 2 Fine Motor | Blocks Paper, foil or wrap Tape Box lid and glue (optional) | Why do snakes shed their skin? | Wrap blocks or other items from around the room in recycled paper, foil or plastic wrap and lightly tape. Encourage the children to take off the "skins." If desired, squeeze glue on a plastic box lid, let it dry, then invite the children to try and peel the "skin." | |
| | | WEEK 4 ANIMALS S | -Z | |
| LESSON 16 Wool Stuffing sc13 Physical Science PD 2 Fine Motor | Stuffing materials Variety of bags | How much wool can you stuff into a bag? | Set out different stuffing materials, such as batting, cotton balls, fabric, packing materials and newspaper. Gather different type of bags (paper bags, pillowcases, clear zip bags, etc.) and encourage the children to explore stuffing the material inside the bags. | |
| LESSON 17 Tiger Tails CA 4 Droma SED 4 Social Relationships | Yarn, ribbon, fabric strips | What kinds of animals have tails? | Gather a variety of yarn, ribbon and other fabric strips. Encourage the children to explore wrapping and tying the materials around their waist and pretending they are tiger tails. | |
| LESSON 18 Garbage Hunters SCI 2 Natural & Earth Science SED 1 Self-Awareness | Paper bags Markers Nature items | How do vultures keep the planet clean? | Set out paper bags and markers for the children to decorate. Explain that vultures are known for eating things other animals think of as garbage. They are scavengers and help keep our planet clean. Encourage the children to go outside with their bags and pick up any nature items or trash. | |
| LESSON 19 Transparent Investigation SCI 1 Investigation & Inquiry PD 2 Fine Motor | Gallon clear zip bag Hair gel Nature items Tape Food coloring (optional) | How do objects move in water? | Fill a gallon-sized clear zip bag with hair gel, food coloring (optional) and any interesting items from nature such as flowers and leaves. Secure the top with tape. Invite the children to feel and observe the material inside the bags. | |
| LESSON 20 Rocky Trail SC13 Physical Science MR7 Logic & Reasoning SS 3 Geography | Bin of rocks and blocks Toy animals (optional) | How can you build a rocky trail? | Set out a bin of rocks and blocks. Encourage the children to build a trail using the materials. Set out toy animals, if desired. Explain that yaks can walk on trails that are too narrow for horses. | |

Set-Up Directions

These open-ended STEAM stations invite children to investigate, problem-solve and create.

- Hang the Big Question and Inspiration Photos on the wall next to the place you set up the investigation.
- Use the labels to identify and organize materials children will use (and clean up) as they explore STEAM stations.

ROTATING YOUR STATIONS

 Introduce one new STEAM station daily. Leave that station set up all week. By the end of the week, children will have five stations to explore.







perfectly with the monthly
Experience Preschool
Curriculum kits
for a comprehensive
research-based early learning
system. Learn more
and start your research-based
curriculum today.

ExperienceCurriculum.com



How many teeth does an alligator have?



What are nests used for?



Why do camels have humps?



What kind of creatures live in the sea?



How much does a real elephant eat?



Why do foxes build dens?



What tools do gorillas use?



Why might hippos like cold, wet sand or mud?



How do inchworms move?



Why might a kangaroo have a pouch?



How is wool spun into yarn?



How can you build a moose path?



How do otters play?



How can ice be used to build a structure?



Why do snakes shed their skin?



How much wool can you stuff into a bag?



What kinds of animals have tails?



How do vultures keep the planet clean?



How do objects move in water?



How can you build a rocky trail?

























































