Colchester Zoo
Learning at the Zoo
Activity Pack 3

This pack is designed to provide parents, families and groups with information and activities to help you learn at Colchester Zoo. Complete the activities to earn Children’s University passport stamps!

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day by completing worksheet pages. If you are working to earn Children’s University passport stamps, please complete as many pages of the worksheets as you wish and bring them to Guest Services at the end of your day. The more pages you complete, the more stamps you earn up to a maximum of six hours per day.

Please download and print the pack yourself. For a small donation we can print this pack on your behalf.
Complete this and the next page to earn CU hours!

Bird Spotter

People sometimes miss all the interesting birds around the zoo. Follow the hints and see if you can find these animals.

Rainbow Lorikeets □
We’re by the lions

Chilean Flamingo □
Find us on the ‘bridge’ by the lemurs and geladas

Guinea Fowl □
Found around Familiar Friends

King Vulture □
We’re by the wolves

Rüppell’s Griffon Vulture □
We in vulture valley, through the giraffe building

Rhinoceros Hornbill □
We’re by the gibbons

Weaver Bird □
We’re inside the giraffe building

Victoria Crown Pigeon □
Found near the indoor penguin viewing area

After finding these birds, write down one cool fact about each of them on the next page. Find information about them on signs near their enclosure, or just by watching what they do and how they act. Record information like: how big they are, what food they like to eat, or anything else you want to remember.
Bird factsheet:
Record one cool fact or something you notice about each bird

**Rainbow Lorikeet**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Chilean Flamingo**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Guinea Fowl**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Rhinoceros Hornbill**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**King Vulture**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Ruppell’s Griffon Vulture**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Weaver Bird**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

**Victoria Crowned Pigeon**
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day.
Observing Animal Behaviour

Observe an animal for 20 minutes.
Type of animal observed: ________________________________

Make a check mark each time it does one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Walks/Runs</th>
<th>Eats</th>
<th>Drinks</th>
<th>Lies Down</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sleeps</td>
<td>Yawns</td>
<td>Looks at people</td>
<td>Plays</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After observing, make a graph showing the animals behavior.
Make sure you label the axes and an appropriate scale.

Which behavior was most frequent: ________________________________
Animal Research

Find animal you haven’t heard of before. Use your map or simply explore the zoo and see what you can find. When you find an animal fill in the information below.

Name of animal: ______________________

Draw a picture of the animal on the back of this sheet

Size (record weight and height, can be an estimate): _______

Type of body covering (fur, feathers, scales, etc.): ________

Mark on the map where it lives in the wild

How does your animal get its food? (grazer, chases prey, browser, etc.): ____________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What habitat does it live in: ______________
How is it adapted to that habitat: ______________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________

What is the future of your animal in the wild? Why?
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________________________
What’s the Danger?

Animals are endangered for different reasons. Read information about threats to the animals on signs at their enclosure. Write the name of an animal that is threatened for each reason:

- Animal has only one or two babies at a time ________________

- Animal needs a special place to nest ________________________

- Animal lives close to major cities _________________________

- Animal home changed to farm land ________________________

- Animal hunted for fur _________________________________

- Animal killed because people don’t like them _____________

- Animal that food is taken by people ________________

- Animal who is killed for tusks or horns ________________

- Animal is very, very rare ______________________________
Comparing Apes and Monkeys

Apes and monkeys belong in the primate family along with lemurs and us! There are some key differences however between apes and monkeys.

Find three apes species and three monkey species. When you find a species write down what they look like or draw a small picture of them.

**Apes at the zoo are:** chimpanzees, orangutans, gibbons, and humans!

**Monkeys at the zoo include:** mandrills, geladas, tamarins, marmosets, and more!

Lemurs are not apes NOR monkeys, they are their own separate group.

What is the main visible difference between apes and monkeys? (hint, what does one of them not have?)
Counting Animal Classification - page 1

Find five examples of each type of animal. Record the number of individual animals you observe of each type. The first one has been done as an example.

**Mammals**
Animals with fur or hair

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
<th>Lion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of individual animals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of mammals there was a total of:______ individual animals

**Birds**
Have feathers, wings and beaks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of individual animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of birds there was a total of:______ individual animals

**Fish**
Live in water and breathe through gills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of individual animals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of fish there was a total of:______ individual animals

The most numerous type of animal I observed was the:____________________
Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day.

Counting Animal Classification - page 1

Find five examples of each type of animal. 
Record the number of individual animals you observe of each type.

**Amphibians**
Animals with soft, wet skin (often live in land and water)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
<th>Number of individual animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of mammals there was a total of:______ individual animals

**Reptiles**
Animals with scaly, leathery skin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
<th>Number of individual animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of birds there was a total of:______ individual animals

**Invertebrates**
Animals without bones (e.g. seastars, insects, spiders, etc.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species (types of animal)</th>
<th>Number of individual animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With 5 species (types) of fish there was a total of:______ individual animals

The most numerous type of animal I observed was the:________________________
Visit the Nature Area (through the tiger viewing tunnel). Walk all along the boardwalk until you reach the bird hide at the end. Answer these questions based on the information on the signs in the bird hide and what you see.

What type of bird feeders are on the Nature Area? (circle all that apply)
- Seed
- Nuts
- Mix
- Suet

Did you see any birds at the bird feeders? YES / NO
If you saw birds, describe what they look like: ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Can you find the bird’s name on any of the signs (the signs only have the common birds, so if it is a rare bird, it might not be on any of them!) ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Are there any birds on the pond? YES/NO
If you saw birds, describe what they look like: ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Can you find the bird’s name on any of the signs (the signs only have the common birds, so if it is a rare bird, it might not be on any of them!) ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

What other animals have might live on the nature area?
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day
### Habitat Quality Assessment

Visit the Nature Area (through the tiger viewing tunnel).

Look at the entire area, paying attention to the ‘type feature being assessed’. After your examination, assign each feature a ranking (3-0) by circling the appropriate description. After ranking everything, sum all the points in each column, then sum all the points together to get a total score for the habitat.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Feature being Assessed</th>
<th>Number of large trees</th>
<th>Understory plants</th>
<th>Logs, rotten trees, and other large woody debris</th>
<th>Connectivity to other nearby habitats</th>
<th>Water Quality</th>
<th>Water Plants</th>
<th>Water Channel Complexity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many large trees</td>
<td>Many shrubs, bushes, reeds, etc.</td>
<td>Many large logs and other large woody debris</td>
<td>Area appears to connect to surrounding forest/stream/etc.</td>
<td>Water flowing and appears clear; no smell.</td>
<td>A variety of different plants growing in the water</td>
<td>Water in a variety of channels; bendy streams connecting multiple small pools and ponds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5 large trees</td>
<td>Scattered clumps of shrubs, bushes, etc.</td>
<td>A few logs and other large woody debris</td>
<td>Forests/streams/etc. visible nearby but not connected (field or similar separating them)</td>
<td>Water flowing slowly; slightly cloudy (hard to see through); no smell</td>
<td>One type of plant completely covering all the water</td>
<td>Water in a variety of channels; completely straight streams connecting multiple round pools and ponds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-3 large trees</td>
<td>A few shrubs</td>
<td>1 log</td>
<td>Forests/streams/etc. visible nearby but not connected (road or similar separating them)</td>
<td>Water still; very cloudy (can’t see the bottom at all); no smell</td>
<td>A few scattered, sickly looking plants</td>
<td>Water only in one main channel; completely straight stream linking one round pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No large trees on site</td>
<td>No understory plants</td>
<td>No logs or large woody debris</td>
<td>No forests/streams or other habitats visible nearby</td>
<td>Water still; very cloudy (can’t see the bottom at all); strong bad smell</td>
<td>No plants growing anywhere near the water</td>
<td>Water only in one completely straight stream (no larger ponds or pools)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Points in each Column

### Total Score for the entire habitat

(sum together all of your totals from each column)

**Quality of Habitat based on numbers of point:**

- **Excellent Habitat** 25-35 points
- **Good Habitat** 15-25 points
- **Okay Habitat** 5-15 points
- **Poor Habitat** 0-5 points

**Based on your assessment, what quality is the nature area:**

**What could be added or changed to make the nature area a better habitat:**

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day.
Pet Animal Needs

Many of the animals at Sensation Station (near the farm animals) are animals which people keep as pets. These are animals that might be called ‘exotic pets’ and have slightly different needs than cats and dogs.

Visit Sensation Station when there is a staff member there (on busy days this is all the time, on quieter days this is the first fifteen minutes of each hour, check the sign at the door for specifics)

Find out the answers to these questions for ONE of the animals:

What animal are you describing: ______________________________________________________________

What type of enclosure does it need? (cage, terrarium, outdoor hutch, etc.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

How big is its enclosure at the zoo? ___________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Does it need anything ‘special’ in its enclosure? (e.g. heat mat, UV lights, etc.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

What type of food does it eat? ______________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Does it need to be in a group or can it live alone? __________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Are there any other important things to know about it? (e.g. is it only awake at night time, does it live a really long time, does it need special grooming, etc.)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Do you think this would be a good pet animal for YOU? Why or why not?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day
 Talks and Feeding Times

There are a lot of feeds and talks that happen throughout the day. Check the map (available at Guest Services, Entrance and online) for locations and times.

Watch the **Meerkat Encounter** and answer the following questions:

Why do meerkats have a ‘lookout’ ______________________________ ____________________________________________________________________________

How many meerkats are in this ‘mob’? __________________________

What is the name of one of the meerkats? ______________________

What is the meerkats keeper’s name? ____________________________

Attend the **Otter Encounter** and answer the following questions:

What is the name of the father otter? _____________________________

What is a threat to these otters in the wild? __________________________________________________________________________

What can you do to help otters? _______________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Go to the **Lion Encounter** and answer the following questions:

How do the keepers stay safe working with the lions? _____________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

Lions are (circle one): constantly active OR lazy and would prefer to sleep

Which is the biggest cat at Colchester Zoo? ____________________________

Please note, you can earn a maximum of 6 hours per day
Well Done!

Now bring your completed pages of this workbook to the Guest Services building (located next to the red brick building) so we can stamp your Children’s University passport.

PLEASE NOTE, while you can complete as many pages as you’d like from any of the workbooks, YOU CAN ONLY EARN A MAXIMUM OF SIX CU HOURS EACH DAY BY COMPLETING THESE WORKBOOK PAGES

If you have any comments please contact our education team at education@colchesterzoo.org

Want to earn more CU hours? Kid’s Zoo Academy is a paid two hour experience where you learn all about being a zoo keeper. For details see www.colchesterzoo.org/experiences/kids-zoo-academy