



# COLCHESTER ZOO HOME EDUCATION SESSIONS 2019-2020

Sessions for age 11-16  
3:00-4:00

	Topic	Session Description	Key Points Covered
<b>Sept</b> Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Tues 10 <sup>th</sup> Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	Animal Intelligence	What animal is the most intelligent? How do you actually measure intelligence? Participants will find out some amazing feats of animal intelligence and the variety of ways animals can be intelligent. We'll then relate this back to our zoo animals and how we can train even 'non-intelligent' animals.	Facts about animal intelligence; operant & classical condition; type of operant conditioning
<b>Oct</b> Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> Wed 9 <sup>th</sup>	Biodiversity	Participants will learn about the importance of biodiversity – what it is, and why it matters. We'll then discuss ways of measuring biodiversity used by wildlife rangers in the field. Participants will then get the chance to try these techniques themselves and identify animals to measure biodiversity.	Define biodiversity; ways of measuring biodiversity
<b>Nov</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Animal Faeces: Diet and Health	Part of being a zoo keeper is dealing with animal faeces – but it's not just cleaning it up! Animal faeces can tell us a lot about an animal's health and diet. Participants will get the chance to get hands-on with some real samples while we investigate what faeces can tell us.	Animal faecal exam; roles and jobs of zookeepers; herbivore, carnivore, omnivore
<b>Dec</b> Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> Tues 17 <sup>th</sup> Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	Avian Biology	Using scientific study skins, participants will learn about the diversity of avian biology. We'll investigate what wing cord, and tarsus measurements can tell us, and how it lets us determine where a bird would live or what it might do. We'll use this information to learn some basic bird identification skills. This provides you with the information you need to go home and take part in one of the planets longest-running citizen science projects.	Bird body parts; bird adaptations.
<b>Jan</b> Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Endangered Species	Many animals are endangered and threatened with extinction. In this session, participants will learn about the major threats facing endangered animals: habitat loss, invasive species, poaching, pollution and over use. Participants will get the chance to see real animal artefacts up close, and learn some of the shocking facts about endangered species. These problems are contrasted with positive actions you can take to help endangered animals, with a specific focus on product labelling and how to make smart consumer choices.	Endangered species; threats to biodiversity; positive actions
<b>Feb</b> Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	Wildlife Art	We'll look at how art has changed from the time of early explorers to famous modern wildlife artists. A demonstration will highlight the importance of paying attention and using real animals, and biofacts as a resource to record wildlife accurately. Participants will then have free time to get hands-on and examine animal biofacts (furs, skulls, etc.) themselves as they practice their art techniques.	Classification (bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish); famous British wildlife artists; art skills
<b>Mar</b> Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Plants, Herbivores, and Ungulates	This session opens with an introduction to plant biology and the major types of plants. We then relate plants back to zoo animals with a specific focus on herbivores and animal diets.	Plant classification; role of zookeeper; herbivore animal characteristics and types
<b>Apr</b> Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	The Wonder of Invertebrates	After discovering why we classify living things, participants will learn the key characteristics of different animals groups. We'll introduce the five main vertebrate groups, and then focus at the phyla level on the vast diversity of invertebrates.	Classification (vertebrate & invertebrate); major invertebrate groups
<b>May</b> Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> Tues 19 <sup>th</sup> Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Aquatic Invertebrate Investigation	Participants will get the chance to visit our Nature Area and go pond dipping to determine what aquatic invertebrates (and vertebrates) live in the pond. Using classification keys we'll identify the organisms we've caught. We'll then discuss what types of animals they are and what this says about the water quality, and the ecosystem of the nature area in general.	Habitat assessments; aquatic invertebrate identification; ID keys and guides