

Animal Enrichment

How does Colchester Zoo keep the animals entertained?



Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the session:

- ✓ **All students** will know what enrichment means
- ✓ **Most students** will be able to recognise different forms of enrichment
- ✓ **Some students** will understand how enrichment can improve the overall health and wellbeing of animals

Session Outline:

The session starts with highlighting the fact that wild animals spend most of their time finding food or trying not to be food and that in zoos animals are safe from predators and have a constant food supply. This leads into what enrichment is, why it is used in zoos, and the considerations needed when creating enrichment. After looking at examples of animal enrichment done at Colchester Zoo and at zoos around the world. The types of enrichment looked at include feeding enrichment, sensory enrichment, social enrichment and novel enrichment. The session ends with a chance for the students to create their own enrichment which will then be given to one of the animals at Colchester Zoo.

Some animals get excited when given enrichment, which can lead to loud and high pitch noises.

Please make the education team aware on the booking form or when enquiring if any students are uncomfortable with such sounds.

This will allow the team time to organise a quieter animals to receive the enrichment.