



# COLCHESTER ZOO HOME EDUCATION SESSIONS 2023-2024

Sessions for age 7-11

	Topic	Session Description	Key Points Covered
<b>Sept</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Ecosystems	After introducing the concept of food chains, we'll investigate how these are connected together into more complex food webs through a variety of hands-on activities. We'll also introduce many of the concepts and vocabulary that biologists use to describe animals and where they live in nature.	Producer/consumer/decomposer; biotic/abiotic; ecosystem, community, and habitat.
<b>Oct</b> Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	Layers of the Ocean	Children will discover the variety of life in the ocean as we investigate the different layers of the ocean. What lives on the continental shelf compared to the abyss and why are they different? While learning this, children get hands on with biofacts of a variety of ocean creatures.	ocean animal adaptations; layers of the ocean.
<b>Nov</b> Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	Scatology	Scatology – the science of poo! As we delve into the science of scatology children will learn how animal poo can let us identify what type of food they eat. We'll then think like zookeepers and learn what else poo can tell us about an animal's health.	Predator/prey; herbivore, carnivore, omnivore; scat identification; roles and jobs of zookeepers.
<b>Dec</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Lemur or Monkey	Children will discover the key differences between lemurs, monkeys, and other primates. While investigating this, participants will learn how these animals are adapted to their specific habitats. Props and costumes will bring this topic to life and show just how different these similar animals can be.	Adaptations; difference between monkeys and lemurs; habitats these animals live in
<b>Jan</b> Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> Tues 9 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10 <sup>th</sup>	Art	Explore the work of some great wildlife and animal artists from painters to photographers. There will then be free time for children to get hands-on and examine animal artefacts (skulls, furs, etc.) and practice their art techniques.	Classification (bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, fish); famous British wildlife artists.
<b>Feb</b> Mon 5 <sup>th</sup> Tues 6 <sup>th</sup> Wed 7 <sup>th</sup>	Classification	Children will learn how modern biological classification developed and the key characteristics used to define different groups of animals. We will specifically focus on the five main vertebrate groups with a chance to get hands-on with a variety of animal biofacts to determine their key characteristics.	Classification (vertebrate & invertebrate); major vertebrate groups; key vertebrate characteristics
<b>Mar</b> Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Wed 6 <sup>th</sup>	Plant Classification	Children will get a chance to be junior botanists as they explore the intriguing world of plant classification. Discover facts about the huge variety of plants and how we use them around the zoo for our animals. During this session, we'll focus on close observation of plant characteristics, grouping and identifying plants.	Plant anatomy; plant classification
<b>Apr</b> Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> Wed 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rainforest Layers	Rainforests are a unique habitat because they are divided into layers. Children will learn about the emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor layers of the rainforest, and discover some of the amazing adaptations of animals living at each layer.	Rainforest characteristics; rainforest layers; rainforest animal adaptations
<b>May</b> Mon 13 <sup>th</sup> Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	Role of Zoos	Participants will learn the main goals of a modern zoo, with a focus on saving endangered animals. We'll discuss the term endangered, and why animals are endangered in the wild. Next, we'll learn about how zoos, including Colchester Zoo, work to help animals through work at the zoo as well as projects around the world.	Endangered species; in-situ and ex-situ conservation; role of zoos.