


COLCHESTER ZOO HOME EDUCATION SESSIONS 2024-2025

	Topic	Session Description	Key Points Covered
Sept Mon 2 nd Tues 3 rd Wed 4 th	Habitats	Animals live everywhere in the world, how do they live in such diverse habitats? Students will learn habitat characteristics, and discover some of the cool adaptions that let animals live there.	Characteristics of: woodland forest, rainforest, tundra, savannah and the desert; animal adaptations to these habitats.
Oct Mon 7 th Tues 8 th Wed 9 th	Animal Adaptations	How do adaptations help animals survive? After briefly reviewing adaptations for hot and cold places, we'll focus on the major characteristics of predator vs prey animals. This includes investigating animal teeth to determine diet.	Animal adaptations; predators/prey; herbivore, carnivore and omnivore
Nov Mon 4 th Tues 5 th Wed 6 th	STEM @ the Zoo	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths are everywhere, even at the zoo! We'll discover some of the secret science behind zoo keeper jobs. Next, children will get to use STEM design thinking to evaluate an early enclosure prototype and decide how it could be improved. We'll finish with a look at how zoos are involved with creating technology to help save endangered animals.	Zookeeper job roles; STEM design thinking; conservation technology.
Dec Mon 2 nd Tues 3 rd Wed 4 th	African Animals	Discover the four main habitats of Africa – mountains, deserts, rainforests, and savannahs. For each location, we'll find out about animals that live there and what makes them the same and different.	Key characteristics of different habitats; geography of Africa; animal adaptations
Jan Mon 6 th Tues 7 th Wed 8 th	Lifecycles	Children investigate how different animals grow and develop. A variety of hands-on activities bring this topic to life as we discover which types of animals lay eggs as well as how baby animals grow and change.	How animals grow and change; metamorphosis; what types of animals lay eggs
Feb Mon 3 rd Tues 4 th Wed 5 th	Darwin Explorers	Learn about Darwin's big ideas on evolution through hands-on exploration of real scientific specimens. Comparing bird beaks and feet, investigate how these animals are adapted to specific diets. We then relate this study back to the idea of evolution through natural selection.	Darwin; animal adaptations; evolution and natural selection
Mar Mon 10 th Tues 11 th Wed 12 th	Rainforest Threats	Rainforests are amazing places full of diverse plants and animals. Unfortunately, rainforests are threatened. This includes individual endangered animal species and habitat loss threatening everything that lives in them. Children will learn about these incredible places and what they can do to help save them.	Biodiversity; endangered species; habitat loss; deforestation
Apr Mon 28 th Tues 29 th Wed 30 th	Zoo Jobs	What is it like to be a zookeeper? A variety of hands-on activities will illustrate the variety of jobs zookeepers do, and what key skills are required to be a zookeeper. We'll then discuss what sort of experience and skills are needed to go into a job working with animals, such as being a zookeeper.	jobs of zookeepers; animal career skills
May Mon 12 th Tues 13 th Wed 14 th	Pond Creatures	Find out about what minibeasts and other creatures are lurking under the water of local ponds.	Pond creature identification