

Zoo Unit

Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year Olds, 2007.

These standards are beacon lights for my curriculum. I adapt them according to the ability of my students. I use them as goals to strive towards or as background building for my students' future learning. These goals are my focus, but they are not the only objectives being utilized by the following lessons. Language and social goals are incorporated into daily routines.

I. Virginia Foundation Blocks for Early Learning

1. Scientific Investigation, Reasoning and Life Processes

- a. Identify basic properties of objects by direct observations
- b. Describe objects using pictures and words
- c. Separate a set of objects into 2 groups according to physical characteristics.

2. Life Processes:

- a. Describe what living things need to live (shelter, water and food)
- b. That "baby" animals are similar but not identical to parents and to one another.

II. Concepts to Teach:

1. A zoo is a place to wild animals safely
2. A zoo also saves animals that may become extinct or species die out
3. Zoo Keeper is someone who feeds and takes care of the animals
4. A veterinarian is an animal doctor
5. Animals are kept in houses, cages, or behind fenced in areas that are similar to their natural homes in the wild
6. Animals found in the zoo: elephants, zebras, giraffes, monkeys, hippos, rhinos, bears, lions, snakes, birds, and reptiles
 - Animals need water, food, and air to live
 - Animals are similar but not exactly like their parents

III. Books that can be read:

1. *Quick As A Cricket* by Audry Wood
2. *Lyle, Lyle Crocodile* by Bernard Waber

III. Books that can be read continued:

3. *Polar Bear, Polar Bear What Do You Hear* by Eric Carle
4. *Llama, Who Is Mama?* by Deborah Guarino and Steven Kellogg
4. *Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash?* by
5. *Zoo* by Gail Gibbons
6. *George and Martha* by Marshall
7. *If Anything Ever Goes Wrong at the Zoo* by Mary Jean Hendrick
8. *The Zoo Book* by Jan Pfloog
9. *My Visit to the Zoo* by Alike
10. *The Very Clever Crocodile (a pop-up book)* by Jack Tickle
11. *Wild Animals In the Jungle* by Marcelle Verite (just show pictures, text beyond preschoolers)
12. *We Hide, You Seek* by Jose Aruego and Ariane Dewey

IV. Zoobooks by Wildlife Education, Ltd

1. School Aged Magazines

- Alligators and Crocodiles
- Hippos
- Elephants
- Lions
- Tigers
- Giraffes
- Zebras
- Monkeys
- Camels
- Polar Bears

2. Toddler Zoo Book Series:

- Elephants
- Tigers

V. Activities

1. Overall Activities to use throughout unit:

A. Sorting:

- * Air, Land, and Water (put pictures on a poster according to where live)
- * Feathers, Fur, or Scales or Skin
- * Zoo or Farm Animals

B. Matching:

- *Mother Animal to Baby Animal

V. Activities

1. Overall Activities to use throughout unit:

C. **Mystery Animal:** Take a file folder and cut out sections with windows on the front cover (see sample). Put a picture on the inside and see if children can guess the animal.

D. **Zoo Keep and Vet Drama Center Play**

E. **Go on A Safari Hunt:** Name the animals displayed on walls of classroom

F. **Play dough Animals**

G. **Animal Crackers**

* for snack

* for math activities (count, add and subtract)

* sort the crackers and put it on a graph (see sample)

H. **Have an Animal Day** and children bring in stuffed zoo animal toys

I. **Games:** (Ideas from www.activityideaplace.com)

- **Musical Zoo** (put large laminated pictures of animal on floor - more than you need for all children). When the music stops, the children go to stand on an animal
- **Zoo Keeper May I:** Same as Mother May I
- **Zoo Keeper Says :** Same as Simeon Says

2. Animals: See **Teacher made books** for facts to teach about each animal

A. Giraffe Crafts

- **Make a giraffe puppet** (see sample)
- **Z shaped giraffe:** make a large tan or yellow Z. Add thumbprint spots and put on the bottom of z, wooden clothespins for legs, add eyes
- **Painted Giraffe:** use yellow construction paper and fingerprint brown spots on the paper, Then trace an outline of a giraffe and put it on another sheet of paper Add in construction paper grass and green leaves from a tree

B. Zebra Crafts: (paint with finger, small paint brush or q-tip)

- **Paint black stripes on white paper,** cut out in the shape of a zebra, add stiff rick-rack for mane, and pieces of yarn on end of tail, place on opposite color of paper or on green for grasslands
- **Paint white stripes on black paper,** cut out in the shape of a zebra and glue short pieces of pipe cleaners for mane, and small pieces of yarn on end of tail
- **Paint brown stripes on white paper,** cut out in a shape of a zebra and complete activity as one would the black on white paper

V. Activities continued:

2. Animals: See **Teacher made books** for facts to teach about each animal

C. Elephant Crafts:

- **Elephant Masks:**
 - Large paper plate that has been painted or colored gray with crayons.
 - Add eyes and ears, cut a hole for nose and
 - Add in either a gray sock or an old gray stocking.
- **Crumpled Newspaper Elephant:**
 - cut out a large circle for head, ears and a long narrow strip for nose
 - crumple up the paper
 - paint it gray
 - glue the ears on face, add facial features to elephant
 - accordion fold the nose and glue onto face
- **Stand Up Elephant:**
 - Fold a 9x12 piece of gray construction paper in half to form a 6x4 $\frac{1}{2}$ rectangle
 - Cut the rectangle into a half circle
 - Use paper scraps to make ears and legs
 - Glue a 1x6 in trunk
- **Sponge Paint Elephant:** Sponge paint white paper grey, cut out into an elephant shape using a tracer, use scrap to glue on ear (see sample)
- **Elephant Tracks:** Make tracks out of construction paper and laminate, place on floor and let children walk on the tracks as a safari or to music

D. The Big Cats: Lions and Tigers

1. Lions:

- ◆ **Paper Plate Masks:** all use paper plates, paper ears and color face , add in facial features of pink triangle nose, whiskers an drawn on mouth and eyes
 1. **Rice Crispy Mane:** glue on rice Krispie cereal for mane
 2. **Curled-up Paper Mane**
 3. **Yarn Mane**
 4. **Yellow Cotton Ball Mane**
- ◆ **Stencil Lion :** Sponge paint and cut out, glue onto another sheet of construction paper

V. Activities For Zoo Animals continued:

2. Animals: See **Teacher made books** for facts to teach about each animal

D. The Big Cats: Lions and Tigers

2. Tiger Crafts:

- ◆ **Stencil tiger**; Sponge paint orange, then add black stripes with marker when paint is dry
- ◆ **Paper Plate Tiger**: add black triangles around the outside area of mask , whiskers, draw eyes and mouth, add pink triangle nose
- ◆ **Tiger Mask**: **Cut** paper plate in half, paint or color orange. Add on black stripes of paper, cut out triangle eye holes and cut out a small triangle where mask will fit on child's nose. add yarn or elastic to hold mask on face
- ◆ **Color sheets**

E. Hippo and Rhino Crafts:

1. Hippo:

- ◆ **Color Sheet**
- ◆ **Hippo in the Water**:
 - Use a hippo tracer or use a black-line outline of a hippo,
 - Color hippo
 - Water paint blue over hippo just leaving the nose and eyes above water
 - Add narrow strips cut from green party crepe paper

2. Rhino

- ◆ **Color sheet** :Color, cut out and put on green paper , add green grass that has been fringed

F. Monkey Crafts:

• Thumbprint Monkey in Tree:

- ◆ Have a construction paper tree ready to put on another sheet of construction paper,
- ◆ Add in finger or thumbprints (use 2 for the body)
- ◆ Use a maker to add in arms, legs and tail

• Peanut Monkey in Tree:

- ◆ Tear strips of green construction paper or use green crepe paper for tree leaves
- ◆ Tear black or brown tree trunk and add on green fringed grass
- ◆ Glue on whole peanuts for monkeys, Add pipe cleaner arms and legs, small piece of yarn for tail

V. Animal Activities continued:

2. Animals: See **Teacher made books** for facts to teach about each animal

F. Monkey Crafts:

- **Endangered Gorilla mask**, color and add yarn to put on face
- **Color sheets**

G. Crocodile Crafts:

- **Color sheets**
- **Crocodile in the Water:** **Have** a tracer of a crocodile to put in on paper. Color the crocodile, then water paint blue or green for river

H. Snake Craft

- **Color sheet**
- **Spiral snake:** use colored or painted paper plate, add in a paper tongue
- **Roll play dough snakes**

VI. Food to go with unit:

1. Frozen Bananas: stick a cut straw into banana (cut into sections) freeze or chill, dip in melted chocolate, then put back in freezer to set

2. Banana Frozen Pops: Cut a banana in half. Insert a popsicle stick in one end of the banana. Spread peanut butter onto the banana, and then drizzle with honey. Roll in Rice Krispies and freeze