

Zoologist: Moving Animals at the Zoo

NGSS Standard: K-PS2-2



Adventure Description:

In this adventure, you will think like a zoologist and move food bowls to zoo animals.



Activity

Step 1: Background Information on Zoologists (5 minutes)

- Show [Video: Moving Animals at the Zoo](#).
- Explain to students that zoologists have another important job. They have to bring food to the animals!
- Show [Handout: Food for Animals](#). Discuss how people help feed animals at the zoo.

Step 2: Creating a Bowl (10 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will first create a food bowl for an animal at the zoo. Then, they will push or pull the bowl of food to give it to the animal!
- Show [Handout: Animals at the Zoo](#). Have students decide what animal they want to create a food bowl for. Discuss how the food bowls would have to look different for different animals. For example, a food bowl for an elephant would be much larger than a food bowl for a prairie dog. A food bowl for a seal would need to be waterproof because it will be near water where seals live.
- Provide each student with art supplies and building materials to build a bowl (Tip: We suggest providing old applesauce containers or egg cartons so students will have materials that are bowl-shaped to start).
- Have students build a food bowl and food for their animals.

Step 3: Pushing and Pulling the Bowl (10 minutes)

- Explain to students that they will now push and pull the bowl to move it to where their animal lives.
- Have students place their bowls on the floor.

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- Explain to students that they will all push their bowls to a nearby table or desk, pretending that it is the animal (or you can use plastic toy animals). Remind students that when you push something, you move it away from you. (Tip: Have students watch you first as you model what pushing looks like.)
- Explain to students that they will now push their food bowl slower. Then have them push their bowls faster. Ask students why zoologists would want to push or pull bowls faster or slower. Discuss how zoologists would want to quickly push food into the area where a lion lives.
- Have students then pull their food bowl to a different animal in the room. (Tip: Have students watch you first as you model what pulling looks like.)
- Model for students how you pull the bowl faster or slower. Remind students that when you pull something, you move it closer to you.
- Have students choose if they want to pull their bowl faster or slower.
- Discuss which they thought was easier to do: pushing the bowl or pulling the bowl.

Materials List

Provided online:

- Video: Moving Animals at the Zoo
- Handout: Food for Animals
- Handout: Animals at the Zoo

Not provided:

- Art supplies
- Building materials (old applesauce containers, pudding containers, egg cartons, and other materials in a “bowl” shape)
- Grass, leaves, twigs (optional for students to make food)

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