

Name _____

Lab _____



LA ZOO

(Revised July 25, 2009)

Directions to the Zoo

Go south on Hwy-99 towards Los Angeles. It will turn into I-5 near the 'Grapevine'. Exit Western Avenue and go west. Turn left on Victory Blvd. Turn left on Zoo Drive. Follow the signs to the LA Zoo. Parking is free. It takes approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes to reach the LA Zoo from Bakersfield (driving the speed limit).

Introduction

The LA Zoo was opened in Griffith Park in November 1966. The zoo has an extensive collection of wild and endangered species. In 1982, the zoo became part of the California Condor Recovery Program. State of the art 'condominiums' were built to breed these beautiful birds. The Ahmanson Koala House is an exhibit that displays these nocturnal animals in a darkened setting.

The functions of zoos have changed quite dramatically. Zoos are no longer solely places to see animals in cages. They are now educational and research centers. The goals of zoos are to maintain the wild behaviors of animals by placing the animals in enclosures and hiding their food in logs, holes and bushes instead of bowls. This gives the animal a better chance of surviving if it is released into the wild. I hope that this experience will enlighten you on the importance of conservation and preservation of habitat and wildlife. Have fun!

Questions & Exercises

Flamingos

1. Why are flamingos pink in the wild?



2. How are flamingos kept pink in the zoo?

Reptile House

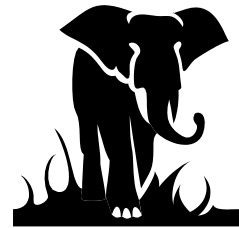
3. Humans need to eat 3 times a day. The reptiles are fed 1 to 4 times a month. Why?
(Hint, warm-blooded vs. cold blooded)



4. Select a reptile and describe an adaptations allow them to survive in their habitat.
- Name of reptile
 - Adaptations.

Elephants

5. How can you tell the difference between an Asian and an African elephant?



6. What is the function of the elephants' large ears?
7. Why do elephants throw dust on themselves?

Koala Bears

8. Why are Koalas not bears?
9. Describe the birth and growth of a baby Koala.

10. Explain why the Koala is more susceptible to extinction due to its feeding behavior.

Eastern Grey Kangaroo

11. Kangaroos do not sweat. They also live in very warm regions of Australia. How do they keep cool?



12. Observe a moving kangaroo. What does is the purpose of its tail as it walks, runs, jumps and stands?

Primates

13. Observe the Gorillas, Chimpanzees or Orangutans for 10 minutes. Describe 3 behaviors seem to be “humans-like”.

California Condor Display

14. Why are there no condors on display for the public to see?

15. Baby birds recognize initial movement as its mother. This is called imprinting. How does the zoo prevent baby condors from imprinting on humans?

16. Why does the zoo remove the egg immediately from the mother condor after she lays the egg?

Adaptations

17. Select 4 animals (preferably animals that were not mentioned earlier). Fill in the chart below concerning adaptations that allow them to survive in the wild.

Animal; Common name				
Habitat (i.e. rainforest, desert...)				
Adaptation to survive within its habitat				
Adaptation to obtain food (if any)				
Adaptation to escape predation (if any)				
Scientific name				

And finally

23. Some monkeys can reach through the fence. Why should you be discouraged against touching or feeding them?

25. What animal intrigued you the most? Why?