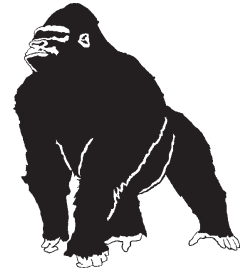




# Teacher's Support Pack



## What you must do before visiting the Zoo

1. If you require food during your visit, please order by phoning Dublin Zoo's Meerkat Restaurant at **01 677 0140**
2. **Your visit to Dublin Zoo:**  
Worksheets should provide some focus for your visit; however you are free to work at your own pace, and to tour the Zoo for the remainder of the day.
3. **Essential items:**  
Students should bring weatherproof clothing
4. **On Arrival**  
As you are responsible for the group, we recommend a supervisory ratio of 1 adult to every 5 students, and with this in mind you can avail of 1 adult free with every 5 students. If you are dividing your class into groups, please ensure that all groups are supervised by an adult.  
Admission fee to be collected beforehand and paid in bulk by teacher/group leader.
5. **Transport:** The number 10 bus from O'Connell St., Dublin City Centre goes to the North Circular Rd. entrance to the Phoenix Park, a 3-minute walk to the Zoo entrance. Dublin Zoo is within walking distance of Heuston station. Transport can also be arranged via CIE, Dublin Bus or Private Coach operators.

## Background Info:

In order for you and your class to fully benefit from the programmes, we have provided general information, a glossary of terms and guidelines to help you prepare for your visit.



## TEACHER SUPPORT

In order for students to get the most out of this activity, we advise that some time be allocated to preparatory work prior to your zoo visit, and to facilitate this, we have included a glossary of relevant terms.

### Glossary of Terms

- **Habitat:** the natural home of a plant or animal.
- **Adaptation:** a characteristic of a living organism that helps it to be successful in its environment e.g. a hedgehog's spines protect it from being killed by predators, or an earthworm's brown earthy colouring helps it to stay hidden and camouflaged from predators.
- **Competition:** plants and animals need many of the same resources, and so they must compete with each other for them e.g. all animals and plants need food, water and space to live.
- **Interactions:** animals and plants living close together, impact on each other in various ways. These are called interactions. Some examples are foxes eat rabbits, bees transfer flower-pollen, plants provide shelter for animals.
- **Food Chain:** A food chain is a sequence of organisms in which each one is eaten by the next member in the chain e.g. a rosebush is eaten by green-fly, which are eaten by spiders, which are eaten by robins.
- **Classification:** animals and plants are classified into different groups according to how closely related they are to each other. The smallest grouping is the species. Then closely related species are put into a single genus. Similar genera are then grouped into a family and so on through orders, classes, phyla and kingdoms. The criteria for classification are usually based on body structures.
- **Endangered:** When the population of an animal or a plant gets very low we refer to them as endangered. It means they are in danger of becoming extinct.
- **Conservation:** efforts made to prevent animals from becoming extinct. This is done by protecting the animals in the wild and also by breeding animals in captivity.

For related facts and activity ideas refer to [www.dublinozoo.ie](http://www.dublinozoo.ie) and [www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/activities](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/activities)